

MOFFAT — HUMBERT



	Fine	V. Fine	Ex. Fine	Unc.
1852 TEN DOLS. 1852 over 1.	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$600.00	—
1852 TEN DOLS	275.00	350.00	475.00	—

UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE OF GOLD 1852

The firm of Moffat & Co. dissolved and a new reorganized company known as the United States Assay Office of Gold, composed of Curtis, Perry and Ward took over the contract.



1852 FIFTY DOLLS. 887 THOUS.	1400.00	1750.00	2225.00
1852 FIFTY DOLLS. 900 THOUS.	1400.00	1875.00	2500.00



1852 TEN DOLS 884 THOUS.	300.00	400.00	475.00	600.00
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UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE



	Fine	V. Fine	Ex. Fine	Unc.
1853 TEN D. 884 THOUS.	\$600.00	\$750.00	\$1000.00	—



1853 TEN D. 900 THOUS.	550.00	700.00	1000.00	—
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1853 TWENTY D. 884 THOUS.	1250.00	1750.00	2000.00	—
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1853 TWENTY D. 900 THOUS.	300.00	400.00	500.00	650.00
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Beware of spurious specimens in "Proof" condition.)

THE RED BOOK OF UNITED STATES COINS

1966

A GUIDE BOOK
of
UNITED STATES COINS

19th Revised Edition

Fully Illustrated

Catalog and Price List — 1616 to Date

By R. S. YEOMAN

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EARLY AMERICAN COINS AND TOKENS
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Subj: **Pioneer Gold Forum**
Date: 12/28/2007 10:31:29 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: stuartlevine@comcast.net
To: ericnumis@aol.com

Hi Eric,

Don Kagin has organized something called the Pioneer Gold Forum, and I have accepted the invitation to join. Please see the details below. Although I would gladly recommend you, I assume that you would not want to overtly participate. Thus, I will be happy to provide you with all the scans that I receive, and I hope that you will help me analyze each item so that nothing falls through the cracks. Your comments please.

Best regards,

Stu

From: Lena DeMarco [<mailto:Lena@kagins.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2007 8:32 PM
To: Andy Lustig ; Bob Rhue; Dave Camire ; David McCarthy; Don Kagin; Eric Goldstein; John Dannreuther ; John Kraljevich Jr. ; JP Martin; Kenneth Bresset; M; Ron Karp; Stuart Levine; Tony Terranova
Subject: FW: Your invitation to join

Please see message below from Don Kagin

Lena DeMarco

Assistant to Donald Kagin
Kagin's, Inc.
98 Main St. #201
Tiburon CA 94920
415-435-2601
www.kagins.com

From: Don Kagin
Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2007 5:31 PM
To: Lena DeMarco
Subject: Your invitation to join

Happy holidays!

As we get ready for the New Year, the Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatists would like to invite you to participate in a very important project called the Pioneer Gold Forum. The purpose is to study and analyze controversial pioneer gold pieces with the intent on arriving at a consensus on what they are, who might have made them and when.

This is an invitation only forum and your participation is vital to its success. Each member was selected for their expertise, enthusiasm and willingness to take a fresh, objective look at these pieces without preconceived notions, personality issues, or monetary repercussions.

We will examine various issues by first sending you scans of as many specimens (both known genuine and suspect items) as prudently possible of the type in question, along with our comments. We will give participants two weeks (more if there are major shows in between) to comment. We will provide a list of standard questions,

Saturday, December 29, 2007 AOL: EricNumis

but freeform comments will probably be the norm; just please be as succinct as possible. We will then try to bring specimens to the next appropriate coin show. If necessary we will ship out specimens for examination.

Results for each group/type examined will be published in the next edition of The Brasher and probably later distributed to other numismatic media.

Although we wish to limit participation to be more efficient, if you know of others who you believe could significantly contribute, please recommend them. Additionally if you have thoughts on improving the process above don't hesitate to reply or call or see me at the next major show.

Please reply to this email with your acceptance of participation. Thank you. Don

Upon your acceptance we will send you the first scans and comments (Jan.3-4). We will be tackling the prooflike 1861 \$20 Clark, Gruber & Co. specimens including the so-called counterstamps. Several specimens will be available at our table #610. Thanks again.

This was not sent to invitees by Ragin but to Deblanco (Ragin's employee) and Deblanco sent it to invitees. It was written by Ragin for that purpose. This seems to be a strange way of arranging the matter.



June 25, 2008

Q. David Bowers
P.O. Box 539
Wolfboro, NH 03894

Dear Dave,

As you may know the Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatists (SPPN) holds its annual meeting on the Saturday of the ANA World's Fair of Money at 11:00AM. Each year we invite a guest speaker, but this year we will be conducting a special Pioneer Gold Forum.

The Pioneer Gold Forum consists of an expert group of outstanding pioneer gold numismatists, who have been carefully chosen for their abilities (as well as willingness) to impartially analyze controversial pioneer numismatic issues. Earlier this year the forum analyzed and concluded that the "Prooflike" 1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$20s were 20th century fantasies. (PCGS subsequently repurchased some erroneously certified overstruck specimens, and relabeled them as fantasies)

At this year's SPPN meeting we will be discussing the controversial Proof and Prooflike 1853 \$20 U.S. Assay Office of Gold pieces. You are well aware of the so-called Newman v. Ford exchanges where these pieces were the subject of a 1968 PNG arbitration that concluded virtually nothing.

No doubt your auction house dealt in these pieces in the past, and currently the grading services do not grade them at all. We believe the time has come to take another scientific look at these pieces to determine their origins.

SPPN would like to invite you to attend the meeting/discussion. If you know of anyone else who is not currently a panel member that could and would like to be a member of this elite forum, please let us know. All members will receive several documents, images, and new lab test information. Additionally, SPPN will be hosting a chat room prior to the ANA meeting to discuss any ideas.

Will you please call or email me and let me know that we can plan on your attendance?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Don Kagin





Pioneer Gold Forum Members

Andy Lustig

Bob Rhue

Bob Roberts

Dave Camire

David McCarthy

Don Kagin

Eric Goldstein

Fred Holabird

John Dannreuther

John Kraljevich Jr

JP Martin

Kenneth Bresset

Kevin Lipton

Lee Minshull

Mary Sauvain

Ron Karp

Sil Di Genova

Stuart Levine

Tim Hargis

Tony Terranova





NUMISMATISTS

Stack's

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PAPER MONEY • MEDALS • TOKENS

July 8, 2008

Don Kagin
Kagin's
98 Main Street #201
Tiburon, CA 94920

Dear Don,

I am dictating this over the weekend and will have my secretary send it out to you early in the week. I will be in Atlanta for most of the week. This is in reference to your letter of June 25, 2008. I'll send a copy of this letter to Eric Newman, who probably knows as much about the situation as anyone; plus at Stack's, Larry Stack, Vicken Yegparian, John Pack, and Scott Mitchell. I will not be able to attend the meeting as I will have left the convention, following a breakfast that I will be attending earlier that morning.

You need to avoid having a "kangaroo court" of people making decisions without careful evidence. In its time this was a very hot subject, carefully considered by the people involved, none of whom seem to be on your list of present recipients. My recommendation is that one or more examples of the subject coins be given detailed elemental analysis, including trace metals. One or more examples of the coins should also be made available for detailed study, not casually at a convention, by certain qualified experts, several of whom I see on your present list. In my opinion, a finding or opinion by, say, John Dannreuther, might trump the opinions of a half a dozen other well-meaning numismatist who enjoy territorial gold coins, but who have not been involved in detailed analyses in the past. Come to think of it, I'll copy John Dannreuther on this.

I would be pleased to examine one or more specimens of the subject coins, here in my facilities at Stack's, Wolfeboro office, such to be done after elemental analysis is provided.

All good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Q David Bowers

Q. David Bowers

QDB/sn

cc: Eric Newman
Larry Stack
Vicken Yegparian
John Pack
Scott Mitchell
John Dannreuther

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www.stacks.com

Dave Bowers' personal e-mail address: edharchive@metrocast.net



Date: 7/16/2008 4:44:17 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: qdbarchive@metrocast.net
To: ericnumis@aol.com, jmkleeberg@yahoo.com, jmkleeberg@yahoo.com

Page 1 of 2

From: Lena DeMarco [mailto:Lena@kagins.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 4:11 PM
To: qdbarchive@metrocast.net; jpack@stacks.com; vickeny@stacks.com; larrystack@stacks.com; scottm@stacks.com
Cc: Don Kagin
Subject: FW: Pioneer Gold Forum: Controversial Profluke 1853 \$20 USAOG

Gentlemen:

I am sending this to you on behalf of Don Kagin. Although we understand you are currently not a member of the forum, Don thought you might find our current topic of interest, in light of Mr. Bowers' recent letter. Along with this attachment and email below, there are several high resolution images available on our private online forum. I have sent you an email invitation which allows you access to these images, if you would like to view them.

For more information on becoming a member of the Pioneer Gold Forum, please contact Don at 415-435-2601 or email don@kagins.com

From: Lena DeMarco
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 5:27 PM
Subject: Pioneer Gold Forum: Controversial Profluke 1853 \$20 USAOG

The following message is sent on behalf of Don Kagin

*****Please send all responses to Don Kagin: don@kagins.com*****

Dear Pioneer Gold Study Group Member,

We have just received back a handful 1853 \$20 USAOG specimens from the Lab. Results are contained in the attachment. Thank you for your patience.

As you may know we are gathering for a round table session at this year's annual SPPN meeting at the ANA World's Fair of Money on Sat. Aug. 2nd in room #320 at 11:00 a.m. We will discuss what we think about these pieces. Potential questions, points and counterpoints based on previous analyses and debate, plus recent updated information is attached to this email.

We have started a private online forum at <http://pioneer.lefora.com>. Please click on the link or cut and paste this URL into your web browser to visit the site. All you will need to register is your email address (it's free!). Once inside the online forum you will have access to the photographs and the ability to comment and read others' comments as well. We have set up this forum to be used as a "chat room" like discussion where anyone is free to comment prior to our gathering. Please be precise, succinct, and of course impartial in your comments.

I would like every one of you to participate, even if you cannot attend the round-table session. If you are able to make it to Baltimore, please commit to your participation in the discussion on the 2nd; RSVP by July 14th to Lena@kagins.com

Thursday, July 17, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

We have copies available of the original Eric Newman indictments of these issues, the John Ford refutation and various other background reports. EVERYONE should (re)read these before commenting. If you need copies email or write ASAP. This is a very important issue we want to resolve scientifically and without personal bias. Thank you again for your participation. — Don

7/17/08 I Telephoned Dave Bowers from Martha's Vineyard to his home with respect to his ^{recent} letter to me about the meeting set for Baltimore ANA Convention by the Pioneer Hall Society on the \$20 USAOG. I told him that Sommerstein in both the first and second editions of his book had condemned the \$20 USAOG proofs as fakes. I also told him that the PNC hearings in 1988 (?) were fully documented in my files but I had never been asked for them and may not wish to furnish them if asked. He said many in the group asked to participate knew little about the matter.

I told him that I was not asked to be part of the study group and that I did not know ~~that~~ whether anyone had the evidence ^{given at} the hearing ~~presented~~ ^{furnished} to them for the meeting or if any came ^{to be shown at the coming} ~~meeting~~ ^{meeting} or any tests made for the coming meeting.

As usual we discussed other matters but he commented that Don Kazin had been sued by Judith Kazin for taking an unfair proportion of funds from Arthur Kazin's estate and that Judith had gone back to Des Moines.

End

Subj: Note from Dave B
 Date: 7/17/2008 9:52:10 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: qdbarchive@metrocast.net
 To: jdrc@mindspring.com
 CC: ericnumis@aol.com

Dear JD,
 I was talking w Eric Newman today and he was wondering if you could give him a call before ANA.

Dave B

^{JD}
~~He~~ Called 7/18/08 and I talked to him for about an hour.
 He said that he had determined that the helical lines were cut
 from ^{genuine} ~~the~~ coin ~~with~~ with a portrait lathe and that after a
 few more struck the helical lines were noticed and that the
 new die was polished to get rid of the lines & that he had
 not read the authentication master for 10 years but remembered
 it. I told him he had written the 1st & 2nd edition of
 his books on etc that the \$20 USA 61859 were forgeries &
 I asked if he recalled that I had told the authentication about
 the helical lines as ~~proof~~ the London coin was false
 and he said he knew that. I told him that I had found
 an MIT professor to show an automatic lathe in 1853
 was available. ~~He~~ He explained the history of the Janvier
 machine and that Roger Bruckette had researched the
 use of portrait lathes at the mint and that the Janvier was
 an improvement of prior lathes.



Prototype obverse

See page 25 for detail



516 gr 34.3 mm 164 reeds

more to come tomorrow!

pnrforummod



Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

website

☐ send msg

Prototype
See page 25 for comment

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[permalink](#)

2008-07-11 00:50 a.m.

*refuse to square punchet item
which follows:*

The piece below is in the upcoming Stacks auction, with the following comment:

"This seems to have been made at the U.S. Mint by Stephen K. Nagy of Philadelphia. Nagy was John Haseltine's son-in-law and Haseltine was William Idler's son-in-law. All three men, first Idler, then Haseltine

and Nagy, had intimate access to the Mint at Philadelphia. The U.S.A.O.G. dies had been returned to the Philadelphia Mint after the San Francisco Mint had been established after 1854. The dies remained in the Philadelphia Mint's vaults for some decades until they were rediscovered and employed to make this, and similar pieces, by Nagy ca. 1907-1912."

The question, obviously, is whether or not this (or any other) piece could have been made by Nagy.



andylustig



Posts: 1

Joined: Jul 11, 2008



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2008-07-11 11:57 a.m.



12105418

Helix of Spines on face



#12105418

516 gr 34.5 mm 170 reeds 910 Au 091 Ag 004 Fe

[pnrforummod](#)

Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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[permalink](#)**2008-07-11 11:59 a.m.**



121 05418

Same coin as on pp. 5 & 6



#12105418

516 gr 34.5 mm 170 reeds 910 Au 091 Ag 004 Fe

[pnrforummod](#)

Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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[permatlink](#)**2008-07-11 12:01 p.m.**



12105419



#12105419

514 gr 34.5 mm 170 reeds 940 Au 063 Ag

[pnrforummod](#)

Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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[permalink](#)**2008-07-11 12:02 p.m.**



#12105420



#12105420

516 gr 34.5 mm 170 reeds 930 Au 073 Ag

[pnrforummod](#)

Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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[permalink](#)**2008-07-11 12:03 p.m.**



12105421



#12105421

516 gr 34.5 mm 170 reeds 910 Au 090 Ag

[pnrforummod](#)

Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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[permalink](#)**2008-07-11 12:05 p.m.**



12105422



#12105422

422 gr 35.7-38.7 mm 0 reeds 1000 Au

[pnrforummod](#)

Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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[permalink](#)**2008-07-11 12:06 p.m.**



121054 23



#12105423

480 gr 34.5 mm 170 reeds 910 Au 081 Ag 005 Cu

[pnrforummod](#)



Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

[website](#)

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2008-07-11 12:07 p.m.



12105424

Copper



#12105424

270 gr 33.7 mm 164 reeds 980 Cu 016 Zn

pnrforummod



Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

website

☐ send msg

Right diagonal of ^{line} Y mit visible,
 Dot under first S of ASSAY and
 over L in GOLD (Same as prototype)
~~center of upright of first T~~
~~Dot of the first T same as prototype~~
 Dot to right of center of upright of first T
 same as prototype.

share | reply | quote
 permalink

2008-07-11 12:08 p.m.



#12105427



#12105427

516 gr 34.5 mm 170 reeds 910 Au 084 Ag 010 sn

[pnrforummod](#)

Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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[permalink](#)**2008-07-11 12:09 p.m.**



12105428



#12105428

514 gr 34.5 mm 170 reeds 910 Au 082 Ag 004 Cu

[pnrforummod](#)

Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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[permalink](#)**2008-07-11 14:47 p.m.**

Elliot - can you post images of the "prototype" coin that shows dings and reeding marks where the repeating depressions occur?

three13



Posts: 1

Joined: Jul 11, 2008



screenshot message

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[permalink](#)**2008-07-11 16:23 p.m.****CLOSE UPS OF REPEATING DEPRESSIONS**

(Prototype : 516 gr : 34.3 mm : 164 reeds :::vs::: #12105418 : 516 gr : 34.5 mm : 170 reeds : 910 Au 091 Ag 004 Fe)





Prototype

#12105418



#12105418



Prototype

900 THOUS



#12105418

Underneath



Prototype



#12105418

S in STATES



Prototype



#12105418

I in AMERICA



Prototype

AMERICA



#12105418

2nd A in



Prototype ↗



#12105418 ↗

TWENTY

NTY in



Prototype

#12105418

Left of Eagle

pnrforummod



Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

website

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2008-07-15 17:06 p.m.



Ex Clifford Collection Bowers & Ruddy March 1982 Lot 30



This piece is not part of the study group but appears to be from the same dies (note the same repeating depressions). EX: Clifford Collection, Bowers and Ruddy March 1982 Lot 30.

516.1 grains : 170 reeds : 880 Au 085 Ag 030 Cu 005 other trace

[pnrforummod](#)



Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

website

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2008-07-16 19:36 p.m.

CLOSE UPS OF REPEATING REVERSE DEPRESSIONS

(Prototype : 516 gr : 34.3 mm : 164 reeds ::vs::: #12105418 : 516 gr : 34.5 mm : 170 reeds : 910 Au 091 Ag 004 Fe)



Prototype



#12105418



Prototype

Between R and N in CALIFORNIA



#12105418

Recess



Prototype

in OFFCE, S and N in SAN

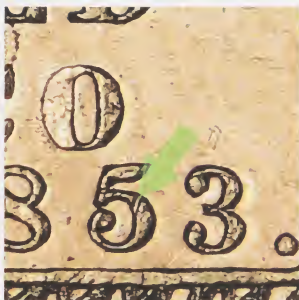


#12105418

O and first F



Prototype



#12105418

5 in 1853

[pnrforummod](#)



Posts: 19

Joined: Jul 10, 2008

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Posts 1...17 of 17

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SPECIFICATIONS

Coin #	Weight (grains)	Diameter (mm)	Reeds	Composition (thousandths)
12105418	516	34.5	170	910 au 091 ag 004 fe
12105419	514	34.5	170	940 au 063 ag
12105420	516	34.5	170	930 au 073 ag
12105421	516	34.5	170	910 au 090 ag
12105422	422	35.7-38.7	0	1000 au
12105423	480	34.5	170	910 au 081 ag 005 cu
12105427	516	34.5	170	910 au 084 ag 010 sn
12105428	514	34.5	170	910 au 082 ag 004 cu
12105429	294	-	-	1000 au
12105430	364	-	-	1000 au
12105431	432	37.6-38.4	0	1000 pb
12105432	686	35.3	170	1000 pb
host	516	34.3	164	

12105424 270 33.7 170 980 cu 016 Zn

ISSUES CONCERNING THE PROOFLIKE (AND PROOF) 1853 U.S. ASSAY OFFICE \$20 GOLD PIECES

1. What are they?

The Franklin Hoard is composed of ten “perfect prooflike” and approximately 200 “so-so prooflike” 1853 USAOG \$20 gold pieces. We will call the first group “Proofs” and the second, “Prooflikes”. Plus there are additional unique “experimental” 1853 \$20 USAOG gold pieces. Additionally there are a number of lead and copper pieces apparently struck from the same or similar dies.

2. Who made them and when?

John Ford’s (along with Walter Breen and Don Taxay) contention was that these coins were struck from an intermediate hub state at the U.S. Assay Office of Gold in San Francisco in the winter of 1853.

They were “discovered” by Paul Franklin in 1957 who claimed they came from an 83 year old man through a Phoenix, Arizona area bank president

Detractors say they were made from a prototype genuine U.S. Assay piece sometime in the late 1950’s when they first appeared in the numismatic marketplace. Likely candidates are Ford in cahoots with Franklin or another forger who duped them both.

3. Why were they made?

Ford contended that the Sept. 30, 1850 coinage law made it imperative that government coins e.g. the U.S. Assay Office pieces, conform to the Coinage Act of 1837 which mandated, among other things, specific alloys for its gold coins. In October, 1853 the Assay Office equipment, originally furnished by the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, was taken over by and for official U.S. branch mint usage. Ford believed officials were then experimenting with different alloys, weights and purity for these coins and these pieces were the results of such experimentations which included .890, .892 1/2, and .895 finesses and weights of 513-517 grains for these \$20s.

Detractors say greed and ego were the likely reasons for the creation of these pieces

4. How were they made?

In Ford’s “Defense”, he provides MIT professor Woodberry’s analysis that the technology was available for these coins to be struck in San Francisco in 1853.

Detractors believe the coins had to have been made in the 20th Century by modern means, i.e. they could be unofficial Restrikes made outside the U.S. Assay Office from real but reworked dies or they could be counterfeit copies struck from a transfer die made from a genuine coin.

While the above issues are important, the science of the coins themselves is what should ultimately condemn or exonerate them. As Ford stated, "only technical evidence predicated solely upon the fabric and die work of the coins themselves can be conclusive."

What follows is some point/counterpoint issues that have brought us to this point and for you to contemplate:

- 1) All Prooflike \$20s appear to come from just one source.
 - 1A) That's because Paul Franklin conducted an extensive search to find these.
- 2) Another Proof USAOG \$20 exists that is different. So are regular U.S. \$20s
 - 2A) That coin is a restrike of 1858-59 vintage struck in Philadelphia like the regular U.S. \$20s, not in San Francisco. This was a common practice of the time. Furthermore the Franklin Hoard pieces do resemble other U.S. Assayer Augustus Humbert struck coins, which have similar burnishing from a partially lapped die
- 3) The reeding count on the Philadelphia Proof is 162; these are not [all the ones we have seen have 170 reeds]. And the reeding is peculiar.
 - 3A) Ford claims [although we have not seen] that Humbert had many collar readings e.g. 148, 150, 173. So did the U.S. \$20s at that time. These were easily made. Also widely divergent collars were used for a number of U.S. coins, e.g. the 1937 halves.
- 4) There are those that believe some of the Hoard coins are cast
 - 4A) Craig says, these experimental pieces of various alloys look different than the Proof Restrike \$20 of 1858-59, with planchets of varying sizes and grains of gold. The use of X-Ray diffraction is inappropriate and these are not from cast dies because there is no shrinkage. [We have seen no cast specimens].
- 5) They look modern
 - 5A) The die punches are linked to the Shultz, Moffat and Humbert pieces. Counterfeiters could not have replicated these die punches. Besides it would have been tremendously expensive to reproduce everything and not very practical. There would have been no financial motive to do so.
- 6) All Hoard coins display the same depressions, such as on the eagle's left talon and right end of branch or on the upper left corner of R in AMERICA and the top of the

U in UNITED. Other less noticeable ones include the end of the ribbon below .900 and on the second T of TWENTY

6A) That's because they all came from the same original genuine hub or master die which produced at least 5 working dies

7) The surfaces of the Hoard coins are pebbly and the letters are soft

7A) These are the result of lapped dies on experimental alloy planchets

8) There appears to be no die flow

8A) The Proof striking pressed out any die flow lines

9) Why were so many of these pieces of varying fineness made if not to sell and defraud unsuspecting collectors?

9A) In September 1852 the San Francisco collector of Customs was instructed to only receive payments in .900 fine coins and the US Assay Office was forced to produce on demand such coinage. The Assay Office was therefore experimenting with various alloy/weight configurations to meet both the dictum of the Treasury Dept. as well as providing coinage for the local merchants who did not have so exacting standards and were willing to take coins of varying fineness.[Actually we have seen little difference in fineness].

10) The reeding is thinner, sharper and constricted like 20th Century counterfeits, not like U.S. Proofs of the time

10A) These pieces are experimental pieces from varying collars.

11) This is atypical luster for the series

11A) Again, these are experimental pieces of varying alloys

12) The serifs are slightly bulbous which is often found on coins struck from transfer dies, as is the slight loss of detail depicted on the lower serif on the E of TWENTY where the original serif broke off of the hub used to make the genuine die.

12A) There is in fact no perceptible shrinkage or any loss of detail. If counterfeit dies had been made using a genuine coin as a hub, there would be substantial loss of detail or evidence of hand finishing

Subj: **upon further review**
Date: 7/20/2008 9:21:01 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: jdr@mindspring.com
To: qdbarchive@metrocast.net
CC: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Dave and Eric,

After examining the photos I was sent (printing close-ups, etc.), I doubt that a portrait lathe was used to make a hub, as it appears the MIT professor was right. It seems the lathe lines are on the planchet. I have not seen the coins since last summer, so I will reserve final judgement until I examine them again at the ANA.

I changed for several reasons, the first being the availability of a lathe in 1956 that could handle 90 degree angles of punched lettering. I know it is possible today, as I have confirmed it. I don't know when the technology was developed. The Janvier lathe introduced to the Mint in 1906 could handle lettering up to 60 degrees, so the lettering (and numerals) are rounded, instead of square. The second is the lathe lines seem to be circles, not in a spiral, as seen on a portrait lathe.

I think some type of transfer die process was used, but not a portrait lathe. That leaves impact dies, moulds, and other 1956 technology. Since, Ford told me that he saw impact dies made in Italy, I now am back to thinking that was the method used to make the dies, skipping the hub stage. This is the most "accurate" copy that can be made. From original coin directly to a die. The excessive polishing is typical of transfer dies.

Will keep you both informed. as others may have some better ideas at the forum.

Best,

JD

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Best,

JD

Subj: **Re: upon further review**
 Date: 7/21/2008 4:11:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: EricNumis
 To: jdrc@mindspring.com
 BCC: stuartlevine@comcast.net

Dear JD:

Thank you for notifying me promptly of the modification of your thinking on the rings on the false \$20 1853 USAOG matter. Please ascertain and advise me as soon as you are able whether the rings are concentric or helical on the pieces which have the rings. My memory of what I thought over 30 years ago is that it was a helix because the cross cutting tool on the lathe would have to be advanced by a worm gear to create a uniform helix cut. The geometric lathe for cutting designs in a flat surface had been developed by Jacob Perkins and others long before 1853 but the MIT professor and I seem to have had differences of thinking on when the "automatic" cross cutter on the lathe was first used. I was never in contact with the professor and I think I learned about his opinion in Ford's summary. As you may know the recorded testimony at the Chicago hearing disappeared. As you also may know Paul Franklin on my questioning at the Chicago hearing refused to disclose his source of the so called proofs and his position was sustained by the arbitrators. I believe that the so called 1 ounce 900 fine gold disc with the USAOG panel has a helical cut on its reverse and not concentric circles.

I look forward to hearing from you. Eric

In a message dated 7/20/2008 9:21:01 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, jdrc@mindspring.com writes:

Hi Dave and Eric,

After examining the photos I was sent (printing close-ups, etc.), I doubt that a portrait lathe was used to make a hub, as it appears the MIT professor was right. It seems the lathe lines are on the planchet. I have not seen the coins since last summer, so I will reserve final judgement until I examine them again at the ANA.

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Will keep you both informed, as others may have some better ideas at the forum.

Best,

JD

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Subj: **Re: 1853 \$20 USAOG fakes**
 Date: 7/22/2008 10:04:30 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: jdrc@mindspring.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric,

A portrait lathe transfer is possible, of course, as today the technology exists to allow the lathe to handle 90 degree angles. When did this improvement occur? I still don't have an answer to that question. If it was in the 1970s or 1980s, we can eliminate the portrait lathe.

I agree that the impact method into hot steel would destroy the coin. However, Ford told me that a composite material was used in Italy. It was soft when the coin was "shot" into it and hardened over time into a composite material harder than steel. According to Ford, the coins were undamaged. Of course, I am no expert in composite material, but I do know that what he said could be true. Thus, I would not eliminate the impact method with a composite material as a possibility. I agree that it was not into steel, as the prototype coin shows little or no damage and certainly wasn't destroyed!

I have never considered spark erosion as a serious possibility for the Assay die, as there is no evidence whatsoever for a spark erosion die. I have eliminated it as a possibility.

So, how did they do it?

It is a great job, but the excessive polishing of the resulting die is indication that whatever method was used, a great deal of "touch up" was required before coins were struck. One thing I did notice was the lettering of the fakes does have a slight incline in comparison to the nearly 90 degree slope of the original prototype from which the fake die was made. This might be a clue to help solve the "how it was done" question. Perhaps, Peter Gasper has some insight into whether a portrait lathe in the 1950s could replicate lettering in such a way. The lettering looks "splayed" a bit, indicating that the copy method could not quite get the sharp angles right. However, the bifurcation of the bottoms of the lettering WAS reproduced as the copies have the subtle bifurcation of the same letters as the original.

Still thinkin'!

Best,

JD

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis@aol.com
 Sent: Jul 22, 2008 8:19 AM
 To: JDRC@mindspring.com
 Subject: 1853 \$20 USAOG fakes

Dear JD

I have a few further comments on our recent communications as to the above matter. You commented on impact dies and that Ford had mentioned an Italian source to you. I had a discussion with Vince Newman of Great Britain long ago when counterfeiters of some current British minor coinage had just taken place using the impact transfer method to red hot steel. The coins from which the false impact dies were produced were destroyed during the impact and additional genuine coins of the same type were sometimes replaced on the drop hammer for further impact until the false dies were clearly formed.

If the transfer dies were made by the spark erosion method the original coin would also be destroyed

Since the original genuine 1853 \$20 USAOG coin from which the fakes were made has been located and exists I wonder if the impact die theory and the spark erosion theory can be abandoned.

There must have been others than the US Mint who were using a Janvier machine or similar equipment during the middle part of the 20th century (at least during the 1950s). The art of sculpture must have been using some.

Subj: Re: 1 oz 900 fine disc.USAOG
Date: 7/22/2008 11:18:35 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: jdrc@mindspring.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric,

Hope you are having a good time on your vacation, in whatever destination that might be.

The other "pieces" are from the same prototype coin and you might be correct in these helping to figure out how they were made. I (as well as others) had noted that "parts" of the new die were used to create the other items. I don't know how you would cut out part of the die, but guess that's what happened. Or, perhaps, several false dies were made and the parts came from these.

Once the method of manufacture has been deduced, I will bet some of these questions will be answered. I have found that once one solves a puzzle, other questions that had lingered often are answered.

We know a false die was made, we just have to figure out how it was done with 1950s technology. I am still learning to some type of impact die. I have some additional evidence that I am examining, so will include these ideas in a future reply.

This has been going on for 50 years, so I don't think it will end next week at the ANA. Hopefully, we can add something important to the literature.

JDRC

JDRC

----- Original Message -----

From: EricNumis@aol.com
Sent: Jul 22, 2008 10:05 AM
To: JDRC@mindspring.com
Subject: 1 oz 900 fine disc USAOG

Dear JDRC

Thank you for your further data on the impact reproduction, etc.

In the limited file I have while on vacation I have looked at the image I have of the text of UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE OF GOLD SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 1853 panel on the disc of the 1 oz 900 fine (Kagin # 121105423) and it seems to me that the text has some of the identical dents found on the identical panel on the prototype as well as on the false \$20 pieces. It seems natural that if the whole USAOG \$20 was reproduced then any part of it can be cut out of the first false die and used on another die, partial die or die section can be prepared. Please check this and if I am correct it may be reported to the public. It may even be done to show that other reported oddments of that character where a section of a genuine piece was used in creating a fantasy item.

I know this disc has long ago been considered a fantasy by some but I am not aware that this proof of diagnosis has been reported before. If so let me know. It certainly seems to add an aura of consistent fraud to the previous general activity. Keep pondering vigorously. Eric

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Subj: **Pioneer Gold Forum: Controversial Prooflike 1853 \$20 USAOG**
 Date: 7/22/2008 4:16:44 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: Lena@kagins.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

The following message is sent on behalf of Don Kagin

*****Please send all responses to Don Kagin: don@kagins.com*****

Eric,

During our last two discussions in St. Louis, I mentioned that through the auspices of the Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatists I was gathering information and analysis on the controversial \$20 1853 USAOG gold coins. I am sending you the results of laboratory tests and images of some of the proof/Prooflike 1853 USAOG \$20s which are being discussed in the enclosed chat room and then at the annual SPPN meeting Sat. August 4 at 11AM in Baltimore. We hope our efforts will lead to meaningful conclusions concerning these issues. Thank you for all your support and assistance. Don

>
 >
 >
 > Dear Pioneer Gold Study Group Member,
 >
 > We have just received back a handful 1853 \$20 USAOG specimens from the
 > Lab. Results are contained in the attachment. Thank you for your
 > patience.
 >
 > As you may know we are gathering for a round table session at this
 > year's annual SPPN meeting at the ANA World's Fair of Money on Sat.
 > Aug. 2nd in room #320 at 11:00 a.m. We will discuss what we think
 > about these pieces. Potential questions, points and counterpoints
 > based on previous analyses and debate, plus recent updated information
 > is attached to this email.
 >
 > We have started a private online forum at <http://pioneer.lefora.com>.
 > Please click on the link or cut and paste this URL into your web
 > browser to visit the site. All you will need to register is your
 > email address (it's free!). Once inside the online forum you will
 > have access to the photographs and the ability to comment and read
 > others comments as well. We have set up this forum to be used as a
 > "chat room" like discussion where anyone is free to comment prior to
 > our gathering. Please be precise, succinct, and of course impartial
 > in your comments.
 >
 > I would like every one of you to participate, even if you cannot
 > attend the round-table session. If you are able to make it to
 > Baltimore, please commit to your participation in the discussion on
 > the 2nd; RSVP by July 14th to Lena@kagins.com
 >
 > We have copies available of the original Eric Newman indictments of
 > these issues, the John Ford refutation and various other background
 > reports. EVERYONE should (re)read these before commenting. If you need
 > copies email or write ASAP. This is a very important issue we want to
 > resolve scientifically and without personal bias. Thank you again for
 > your participation. --- Don

Subj: **Pioneer Gold Forum: Controversial Prooflike 1853 \$20 USAOG**
Date: 7/22/2008 4:18:45 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: no-reply@leforamail.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hey,
Please take a moment to register to view the images and comments. Thank you

JOIN NOW: <http://pioneer.lefora.com/?rtc=EN&rti=invite>

See you on "Pioneer Gold Forum",
lenad

=====

This message was sent to EricNumis@aol.com by community member, lena@kagins.com.
If you do not want to receive such notifications in the future, you can unsubscribe here:
<http://pioneer.lefora.com/optout/?mtype=pioneer:invite&email=EricNumis%40aol.com&tk=vPFisl-sFWYJGd8Xa0KCozukFFgAAAAAAA=&rtc=EN&rti=inviteoptout>



July 23, 2008

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of July 15 expressing your interest and willingness to participate in the SPPN forum concerning the controversial Proof and Prooflike 1853 \$20 U.S. Assay Office of Gold pieces.

Of course we would like your participation; your interest and credentials are well known. Obviously, I share your sentiments that the time is long overdue.

John, I would like to point out that, as you stated in your letter, we would like to have a comprehensive and impartial discussion of these matters. Your conclusions on this subject, as well as Dr. Buttery's, are well known and documented. This is also true of George Fuld and Eric Newman's conclusions, as they were part of the original study group.

I have kept Eric informed of my intention to hold this discussion the last two times I saw him in St. Louis, and he will have access to the discussion material and all the information we have discovered, as will you. In addition to my father, Eric was my first numismatic mentor in the 1960s and I have the greatest respect for and gratitude to him. George and Doris Fuld used to work at Kagin's in the 1980s and they are like family to me.

I have made a calculated decision to have other voices heard; most of whom have read the findings of the four of you.

There are a number of companies and individuals who still have a vested interest in these pieces. I believe the last one that sold in auction was the Henry Clifford coin in 1982, which Dave Bowers called an "Experimental Alloy Striking". I'm sure you will agree that these people (which includes my company; although I'm prepared to incur whatever financial loss is necessary in order to finalize this issue) deserve a fully vetted review of the science of these pieces without bias.

J.P. Martin, Tom Delorey, and Robert D. Leonard are members of the forum and I fully expect them to participate in the discussion and hopefully at ANA.

I encourage all of you to participate in the discussion using your scientific research to guide us in the right direction or to posit important questions. I think, however, that upon reflection, by letting others carry your banner via the on-line forum and meeting, you will ultimately be more persuasive.

Sincerely yours,

Don Kagin

Cc: Dave Bowers
Eric Newman
George Fuld



Subj: **1853 USAOG \$20**
Date: 7/23/2008 11:51:42 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: gaspar@wuchem.wustl.edu

Dear Peter:

There is considerable turmoil about the coming Pioneer Gold Society meeting in Baltimore at the ANA convention this weekend concerning the method by which the above false pieces were produced. It is generally agreed that the pieces are false but the discussion now swirls as to the method used to produce the false pieces. The prototype has been found with identical dents and scratches.

In my recent Email communication with John Dannreuther he writes:

"Perhaps Peter Gaspar has some insight into whether a portrait lathe in the 1950s could replicate lettering in such a way."

This also involves the concentric or helical rings in the field of some of them.

I am sending you a copy of his Email: Eric

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Subj: **1853 USAOG \$20 fakes**
Date: 7/23/2008 2:41:44 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com
CC: gaspar@wuchem.wustl.edu

Dear JD;

Following your suggestion that Peter Gaspar may be able to help us solve the method for making the above fakes I just had a talk with him about the matter. I will try to transmit some of his comments accurately. He seemed to indicate that the Janvier machines were available for purchase from France in the early part 20th century by anyone with lots of money and sufficient credentials but that great skill was needed to operate them. He wished that Vince Newman of the Royal Mint was still alive as Vince would have known the answer we seek on that.

We discussed impact dies and he said he was not aware of any pliable material which would absorb the detail of a coin impression and harden sufficiently for striking metal coins.

He concluded that the method to be thoroughly investigated was a reinforced electrotype shell. A conductive release agent of thinly applied graphite or other satisfactory conductive material would be applied to the prototype coin in order to make a shell (die) negative in the normal manner of making electrotypes. One could make both faces at the same time or one face at a time. The shell or shells would be easily removed from the prototype as I understand it. The the reinforcement of the back of the shell would be undertaken by electroplating a deposit of metal thick enough to become strong enough to enable the reinforced shell to be used for a limited amount of striking. The metal for that plating could be nickel, cadmium, molybdenum or any metal strong enough to make a few strikings without deforming. Pure iron would probably not be used. The front of the shell would be protected by an insulating material so as not to be disturbed when the heavy backing was applied by electrolysis. Electroplating techniques as you know are very old and can be modified in many ways. Perhaps you know lots about this already but perhaps some of the group at the coming meeting may be able to contribute to this thinking or know someone who knows about the subject.

We did not discuss the concentric or helical circular matter but will do so after you check up on and advise me what the circles on the fakes actually are.

What a fascinating problem.

Eric

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Subj: **Re: 1853 USAOG \$20 fakes**
 Date: 7/23/2008 6:33:13 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: gaspar@wustl.edu
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric,

My description to you of the production of an electrotype die was probably not very clear, for which I apologize. I envision the reinforcement of the electrolytically deposited shell as probably being done by pouring molten metal onto its back. If the electrolytically deposited shell was of a sufficiently high-melting metal, one could use molten iron. Chromium melts at a temperature 400 degrees Centigrade above iron, and molybdenum even higher. Chromium plating is common so that might be a good choice.

I'm sorry that I wasn't more clear. Using electroplating to back the original shell might work, but it would be slower and require more care.

I'll read a bit about electrotyping this evening and call you tomorrow.

Peter

At 12:41 PM 7/23/2008, you wrote:

Dear JD;

Following your suggestion that Peter Gaspar may be able to help us solve the method for making the above fakes I just had a talk with him about the matter. I will try to transmit some of his comments accurately.

He seemed to indicate that the Janvier machines were available for purchase from France in the early part 20th century by anyone with lots of money and sufficient credentials but that great skill was needed to operate them. He wished that Vince Newman of the Royal Mint was still alive as Vince would have known the answer we seek on that.

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Eric

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Subj: **Re: 1853 USAOG \$20 fakes**
 Date: 7/23/2008 7:33:14 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: jdr@mindspring.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric,

Funny, last night while thinking about this problem, I started wondering if some type of electroplating could have been use for the transfer process!

I have quite a few electros, as you know, so am familiar with the look of the results. I certainly will consider it more, as I know Peter knows his "stuff." (I do not know him personally, but his reputation precedes him, as they say.)

However, one of the problems I have with it being an electro transfer is the heavy polishing of the "dies." I don't think the method he describe could stand up to the heavy lapping/polishing seen on these coins.

Another problem if an electro was used is the lettering. I have been comparing the original (prototype) with the fakes and the "die" had extensive tooling beside the polishing. There are numerous letters that have been strenthened. These have the same dents, but lettering is deeper and wider. I think this could only be accomplished in a steel die (or a composite die, which Peter seems to think does not exist - he might be right, as Ford often "misdirected" things in his musings).

Indeed, these are puzzling pieces!

Best,

JD

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis@aol.com
 Sent: Jul 23, 2008 1:41 PM
 To: JDRC@Mindspring.com
 Cc: gaspar@wuchem.wustl.edu
 Subject: 1853 USAOG \$20 fakes

Dear JD;

Following your suggestion that Peter Gaspar may be able to help us solve the method for making the above fakes I just had a talk with him about the matter. I will try to transmit some of his comments accurately.

He seemed to indicate that the Janvier machines were available for purchase from France in the early part 20th century by anyone with lots of money and sufficient credentials but that great skill was needed to operate them. He wished that Vince Newman of the Royal Mint was still alive as Vince would have known the answer we seek on that.

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We did not discuss the concentric or helical circular matter but will do so after you check up on and advise me what the circles on the fakes actually are.

Subj: **Methods of faking 1853 USAOG \$20**
Date: 7/24/2008 10:30:44 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com

Dear JD:

Peter Gaspar Emailed me yesterday evening indicating that filling in the back of the electrotype shell to make a stronger die might also be done by pouring hot metal into the shell if the shell were of a metal of a higher melting point than the metal being poured. He said that might be simpler than extensive further electrotyping to fill in. He also stated that the normal dies at the Royal Mint are customarily chromium plated.

He is going to look up more on electrotyping technique and report to me shortly.
I will relay this to you when I am informed.

It also occurs to me that tooling and lapping the face of an electrotype shell which is sufficiently backed for strength is just as easy as tooling or lapping a steel die so I do not think that tooling or lapping would be hindered by working on an electrotyped false die.

It also occurs to me that educating people by explaining forgery details too openly might lead to more forgeries as the listening group might find pleasure spreading the methods to show how smart they have become.

Yours in circles of one sort or another.

Eric

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Subj: **Re: Methods of faking 1853 USAOG \$20**
Date: 7/24/2008 11:56:55 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: jdrc@mindspring.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric,

All sounds good. Maybe, this was how it was done. Look forward to Peter's thoughts. The strength of an electrotype shell is dependent on its metal content, of course, so maybe this was how it was done.

As for giving stuff away to the fakers.....from these coins, it appears that they are ahead of us, anyway, as we can't figure out how they did these coins in 1956!

I agree that our findings should not be published in detail. However, if we figure out how it was done, I believe it will help us figure out other fakes and we need to stay "awake" and observe the new methods. You probably have been reading about all the fakes appearing from the Far East. So far, there is nothing too scary, but I got some struck fakes from copy (?) dies at a recent show and if they were worn to VF or EF, they would fool most numismatists and ALL the non-numismatists.

Best,

JD

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis@aol.com
Sent: Jul 24, 2008 9:30 AM
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com
Subject: Methods of faking 1853 USAOG \$20

Dear JD:

Peter Gaspar Emailed me yesterday evening indicating that filling in the back of the electrotype shell to make a stronger die might also be done by pouring hot metal into the shell if the shell were of a metal of a higher melting point than the metal being poured. He said that might be simpler than extensive further electrotyping to fill in. He also stated that the normal dies at the Royal Mint are customarily chromium plated.

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I will relay this to you when I am informed.

It also occurs to me that tooling and lapping the face of an electrotype shell which is sufficiently backed for strength is just as easy as tooling or lapping a steel die so I do not think that tooling or lapping would be hindered by working on an electrotyped false die.

It also occurs to me that educating people by explaining forgery details too openly might lead to more forgeries as the listening group might find pleasure spreading the methods to show how smart they have become.

Yours in circles of one sort or another.

Eric

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Subj: [CNLF:277] The GREAT DEBATE
 Date: 7/27/2008 5:32:53 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: JCSpilman1@Comcast.net
 Reply-to: CNLF@googlegroups.com
 To: CNLF@googlegroups.com

Shoreline ANA

Good afternoon everyone --

Here is a topic dug up from the past that I have wondered about for several years. "The GREAT DEBATE" took place at the ANS several years ago -- circa 1998 as I remember. I was there as were all of the principal combatants -- John J. Ford, Jr., Mike Hodder, T.V. Buttrey, John Kleeberg, and many other interested observers.

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Enjoy --

Jim/CNLF

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Subj: **[CNLF:278] Re: The GREAT DEBATE**
 Date: 7/27/2008 6:59:07 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: CNLF@comcast.net
 Reply-to: CNLF@googlegroups.com
 To: CNLF@googlegroups.com

Hi George --

So -- evidently the subject may not be completely dead.

BUT - yes you do need to say a bit more. Who is giving the presentation? AND - what became of the Lawsuit (filed by Stack's, if memory serves) -?-. I am afraid that your comment leaves me as much in the dark as I have been for the past several years!

SO -- Many thanks for the heads up on Saturday at the ANA.

Jim/CNLF

=====

On July 27, 4:43 PM, fuldy <fuld1q@comcast.net> wrote:

Jim:

There will be a discussion about the 1853 .900 fine U S Assay "proof" twenties that originated with Ford at the ANA on Saturday at 11:AM. Kleeberg will be there plus lots of interested parties. The outcome is predictable. Need I say More?

George F.

=====

On Jul 27, 4:32 pm, James Spilman <JCSpilm...@Comcast.net> wrote:
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> À™p?9"roups.WA.PDF"
> 319KDownload

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Subj: [CNLF:279] Re: The GREAT DEBATE
 Date: 7/28/2008 11:50:19 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: rosaam1td@aol.com
 Reply-to: CNLF@googlegroups.com
 To: CNLF@googlegroups.com

Jim, while this is not an area of expertise for me, I believe that Buttrey left for Europe at the threat of the lawsuit and it was eventually dropped. Perhaps Mike Hodder can share more details on this. I do know that the discovery of the S.S. Central America ship and the many gold and silver bars on it laid to rest the claim that all the ones that Ford had handled were counterfeits or fantasies -- well, maybe not ALL, as there are some odd ones in the Smithsonian that came via that source, but it is no longer the case that everything other than say a Kellogg bar is considered suspicious.

This certainly had the chance to become one of the more interesting debates of our time, like the Frossard-Woodward debates or the ganging-up on the Chapmans by various other dealers...but the threat of lawsuits is a lot more prevalent today!

>Jeff

-----Original Message-----

From: James Spilman <JCSpilman1@Comcast.net>
 To: CNLF ... The BLOG of Early American Numismatics <CNLF@googlegroups.com>
 Sent: Sun, 27 Jul 2008 11:32 pm
 Subject: [CNLF:277] The GREAT DEBATE

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Jim/CNLF

Thurs. Evng July 29, 2008

Kleeberg telephoned me and said that he was calling me because Bommes had suggested it when they talked about Kleeberg going to the Kegin meeting at Baltimore ANA for the \$20 US HOG discussion. He said he had talked to JD and to Kegin. He told me Kegin said he only invited people who had no bias and that is why I and Kleeberg etc were not asked. Kegin went on to tell Kleeberg that there were about 100 of the 1853 US HOG & 420 pieces at issue, not just the suit & that I know of. I said I had only seen one actual forged piece and saw in 1966 etc ^{plus} photos of about 10 and that in 2008 Kegin distributed 6 or more to the ^{press} ^{photo} ^{to the press} selected for the meeting in Baltimore. I said I had seen those and they were clear and showed the dots and some talk cut lines.

I had heard this before but perhaps Kegin is including genuine pieces with forged pieces or there is confusion.

I told Kleeberg that JD was completely convinced of the forgery and was trying to figure out how they were made.

We then talked of other matters also and I said I was proud that Kleeberg became a lawyer because of his experience in the Sheldon case on the courts. I asked how he was getting along at work. He said he only mentioned Frank Campbell's name. I told him I wrote a poem for Frank's retirement luncheon. He told me it read by Sidney as the Campbell retirement luncheon. He told me he and Hodder were friendly now and I said Hodder was brilliant. He said he thinks Hodder was deceived by Ford and so that helped patch things up between Kleeberg & Hodder. I made no comment on this.

I asked if he knew about Ford's relationship with New Northlands. He said that in testimony in California in the Sheldon matter ^{Col. Wheeler (Hanson?)} said Ford was only an associate and never had an equity position at New Northlands.

Back in the \$20 1853 US HOG matter he said that in 1998 there was a hearing ~~in Colorado Springs~~ on the matter and that SD Martin being an employee of ANA was told not to participate, this hearing I know nothing about but it was before the 1999 Rebuttal in Chicago.

I asked Kleeberg for the list of fully forged pieces of the kind which were "given" to Smithsonians. He said he had it & would send it to me. I perhaps was not clear as I wanted the details of the proven pieces given only. I will telephoned Kleeberg to clarify my request.

Subj: [CNLF:281] Re: The GREAT DEBATE
 Date: 7/30/2008 12:37:28 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: CNLF.JCS@gmail.com
 Reply-to: CNLF@googlegroups.com
 To: CNLF@googlegroups.com

Hello all --

I have added a "GREAT DEBATE" folder to our eBooks collection and converted four documents to our .WA.PDF format and added them to the content. Please advise if other related material should be added to this collection and we will do so. ALSO -- Please keep in mind that ALL documents in our eBooks library collection are made available under the "fair usage" provisions for research in the copyright laws. .

Jim/CNLF

=====

On Jul 28, 12:47 pm, "Dan Freidus" <dan1...@gmail.com> wrote:
 > Some links with more info:<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D02E4DA143BF930A35750...><http://www.fake-gold-bars.co.uk/http://tinyurl.com/6om7uh>http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v10n41a07.html
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 > I'm not an expert on gold bars but my memory of the so-called "great debate"
 > is that it wasn't anyone's finest hour. Neither side presented enough
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 > that personal issues got in the way of some data presented and probably
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Subj: [CNLF:282] Re: The GREAT DEBATE
 Date: 7/31/2008 7:44:00 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: fuld1@comcast.net
 Reply-to: CNLF@googlegroups.com
 To: CNLF@googlegroups.com

To Jim et al:

I had the privilege of examining the USAO \$20 gold specimen in about MS-64 which is the EXACT prototype of the "proof" USAO \$20 peices. There are at least 20 exact points on the "proofs" that match the prototype \$20 (it only takes seven to establish a finger print). It is obvious to the most novice observer, there is no question that the "proof" dies were made from a transfer process directly from the prototype regular issue \$20. Forget the reed differences, X-ray back scatter or other exams--the coins are strictly concotions as there is no way genuine proofs can be produced from an original prototype regular issue!!

Of course all the so-called die trials of the USAO pieces came under the same "BAD" category

I started this coin study of the so-called proofs in early 1964 with a group madeup of Dr. Jame O. Sloss, Abe Kosoff, Eric Newman and myself. As a public service, the Metallurgy Research Laboratory of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. did x-ray studies and photomicrographs and back scatter x-rays. All data was transmitted to Eric about six months later and he carried the ball up to the 1967-8 PNG hearing. One proof was sent to the Secret Service--but they declined to study it as they claimed that the USAO was not a govenmint Mint until 1854 although the USAO was a U S government agency.

Except for some crocodile tears from the present owners of the "proof" twenties and associated trials, the 11:00 AM meeting at ANA on Saturday shoud put this whole subject to rest.

Of course the last big question is where the coins were made--they certainly weren't manufactured in Paul Franklin's garage!!

George Fuld

----- Original Message -----

From: "Jim/CNLF" <CNLF.JCS@gmail.com>
 To: "CNLF ... The BLOG of Early American Numismatics"
 <CNLF@googlegroups.com>
 Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 12:37 PM
 Subject: [CNLF:281] Re: The GREAT DEBATE

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Subj: **Come join the discussion regarding the 1853 \$20 Assay Office Pieces from the Franklin Hoard**
 Date: 7/31/2008 4:55:38 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: no-reply@leforaemail.com
 To: ericnumis@aol.com

Hey,
 Eric,

Please log on to our forum regarding the 1853 \$20 Assay Office Pieces from the Franklin Hoard. Please call me at 415-302-6500. Elliot will be able to help you log on to the forum so you can view our photographs and join the discussion on this subject.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
 Don Kagin

JOIN NOW: <http://pioneer.lefora.com/?rtc=EN&rti=invite>

See you on "Pioneer Gold Forum",
 pnrforummod

=====

This message was sent to ericnumis@aol.com by community member, elliott@kagins.com.
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Karl

Tried to get on the forum, but couldn't get through the mess.

Hi Eric,

Subj: **Re: Come join the discussion regarding the 1853 \$20 Assay Office Pieces from...**
 Date: 7/31/2008 8:17:31 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: EricNumis@Numiscats
 To: EricNumis

Friday, August 01, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

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JOIN NOW: <http://pioneer.lefora.com/?rtc=EN&rti=invite>

See you on "Pioneer Gold Forum",
 pnrforummod

=====

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<http://pioneer.lefora.com/optout/?mtype=pioneer:invite&email=ericnumis%40aol.com&tk=9kwbnl9l24ZFF6bwH-2wz2ZhFpcAAAAAAA=&rtc=EN&rti=inviteoptout>

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 Date: 7/31/2008 8:17:31 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: Numiscats@ericnumis.com
 To: ericnumis@aol.com

Thursday, July 31, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: **[CNLF:287] Re: ANA Baltimore -- 2008**
Date: 8/3/2008 2:09:31 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: fuld1@comcast.net
Reply-to: CNLF@googlegroups.com
To: CNLF@googlegroups.com

Hi All:

I also spent three days at ANA and was not as exhausted as Ray, I think.

Sorry I didn't get to meet Ray, but we did talk to many of the same people.

One thing was accomplished about the \$20 USAO gold pieces. The Franklin-Ford hoard is now officially FORGERIES!! Since the prototype coin was found, from which the dies were made, it was a slam-dunk easy decision.

One new copper Getz half dollar pattern, with a lovely hole, did turn up on the floor.

Although my first ANA was in 1947, certainly the attendance at the show in Baltimore must have set a new record. The isles were jammed. The "Easter egg" type hunt for the youngsters was a great success.

I also had good talks with the Whitman people, Ute of ANS and the people I finally met from the Civil War token group.

By the way, the CW people are still trying to find out information about White & Swann from Huntsville--have you ever tried?

Best,

George F.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Jim/CNLF" <CNLF.JCS@gmail.com>

To: "CNLF ... The BLOG of Early American Numismatics"

<CNLF@googlegroups.com>

Cc: <CNLF@comcast.net>

Sent: Sunday, August 03, 2008 11:47 AM

Subject: [CNLF:286] ANA Baltimore -- 2008

>

>

> Hello all --

>

> The following report from Ray Williams, President of C4, is cross-
> posted from the C4 eGroup. His report is the first to arrive on the
> various eGroups and BLOGS. I have edited it slightly in format to
> make it more readable. Ray was -- without doubt -- very sleepy when
> he wrote it and everything came out as one long paragraph!

>

> SO -- here's Ray

>

> As tired as I am, I didn't want to go to bed without posting about the
> Convention. I had a great time! Having that much fun is exhausting.
> I attended many meetings and lectures. I joined the Medal Collectors
> of America (MCA) and the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS). Their
> meetings and talks were interesting and I figured I'd give it a go for
> a year.

- >
- > I had a chance to talk to Dave Bowers, always a thrill for me - he's a
- > fount of knowledge. I attended the EAC Meeting, GSNA/NJNS meeting and
- > of course the C4 Meeting. I don't know how many were there exactly,
- > but I'm guessing about 35... We had a good time discussing C4, the
- > hobby and the convention. I also got to meet some new faces too.
- >
- > I attended the lecture by Dave Bowers and Katherine Jaeger about the
- > 100 Greatest Medals and Tokens book - very well done. Done Scarinci
- > talked about Medals and their artistic attributes. Although I won't
- > personally be collecting modern artistic medals, I did come away with
- > a different way of looking at colonial coins and medals. Don has an
- > enthusiasm that can be contagious.
- >
- > There was one lecture that I had a difficult time listening to - the
- > inaccuracy of the presentation hurt my ears... no, I won't tell which
- > one.
- >
- > After the C4 Meeting this morning, I went right to Jim Jones lecture
- > on colonial coins. I never met Jim until today - a very nice guy and
- > well informed. The talk was 2 1/2 hours long with a break in the
- > middle. Although I didn't personally learn much new about the coins
- > themselves (a lot of info was given) I did learn a lot about colonial
- > history. It was well worth the time to attend.
- >
- > Willard Mumford gave an excellent presentation about the Chalmers's
- > Mint and brought a number of excavated items including a Chalmers 3
- > pence! I met the new librarian for the ANS, got to spend time with
- > Bob, Ute and Megan at the ANS Table. I met Anne Bentley of the Mass
- > Historical Society, Mary Counts and others from Whitman publications,
- > and Abe Lincoln. Whitman's booth had a Lincoln character actor
- > present - he was good, looked and acted the part very convincingly.
- >
- > The US Mint had a live Bald Eagle in their area - a very impressive
- > bird!
- >
- > I missed about 1/3 of the dealer tables because of the events I was
- > attending, but did manage to get a type Rosa Americana Halfpenny, a NJ
- > Note printed in Trenton, and a group of three counterfeit halfpence
- > found by a metal detector, one of which is a 1784. I travelled with a
- > friend from Trenton who collects that Federal stuff but he's a lot of
- > fun to be around anyway!
- >
- > Of big importance (and I'll stop here) Syd Martin won an NLG Award for
- > his Hibemia Book. Congratulations Syd - it's well deserved. I'm
- > disappointed that the C4 Newsletter didn't win any awards for
- > specialty club publications by the ANA, but there are 400 of us in C4
- > that will all agree that the C4N is the definitely the best club
- > newsletter.
- >
- > Good night all,
- > Ray
- > >

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "CNLF ... The BLOG of Early American Numismatics" group.

To post to this group, send email to CNLF@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe from this group, send email to CNLF+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

Subj: **Re: 1853 USAOG \$20's**
 Date: 8/3/2008 3:57:39 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: EricNumis
 To: fuld1@comcast.net

Dear George: (For you only: See conditions below.)

Thank you for reporting to me much of what happened at the Baltimore meeting on the 1853 \$20 USAOG "Franklin Hoard" matter. I welcome any further information which you wish to send me.

First I want to thank you for asking me in 1966 to be of help in the matter. You were the one who brought me into the problem and sent me photographs of the then known "Franklin Hoard" examples. You asked me to get to work on the problem and I did not realize how much I would learn from working on it. That is why I thank you at this late time which is over 40 years later.

From the 1853 \$20 USAOG piece sold to Garland as a proof for \$3,000 I learned that there were 170 ridges on the edge as compared to 164 ridges on commonly known pieces. From one of the photographs you obtained for me I felt that an equidistantly spaced continuous helical tool mark seemed to be on one of the planchets before striking and was still slightly evident after striking. I concluded that no powered automatic lathe of that period would have been available to make that design on a planchet. I concluded that the helix was not on the die. Ford later in the PNG hearing got the opinion of an MIT professor that a lathe was available in the 1850s but I think that opinion referred to a geometric lathe or something similar. Others studying the Franklin Hoard coins observed that the alleged proof surface on the Franklin Hoard coins had a differently polished appearance than a normal proof coin of the period. The Franklin Hoard coins were sometimes referred to as "proof like".

At the Chicago hearing of the arbitrators for the Professional Numismatic Guild which would hear the matter I asked Paul Franklin who was the first witness where he obtained the coins and the arbitrators sustained Ford's objection that it would be unfair for a numismatic dealer to have to disclose the names of his business customers or his sources. That was a calamity. I had not finished with Franklin's testimony but I was told he left town the next morning. The PNG arbitration testimony was recorded but later after I requested a copy of the recording I was told that the recording failed or disappeared. Then a further hearing of arbitrators I believe took place that winter in Miami but I think I was not advised of it as the arbitrators probably felt that they had the right to conduct the matter in any manner necessary to get further facts. I had been permitted to submit additional material from time to time to the arbitrators on behalf of Garland which I did. A unanimous decision was required by PNG rules. I was told that two of the three arbitrators felt the coin was false but Merkin would not agree to that. Merkin had been appointed as an arbitrator by the Ryan (Ford) side. The arbitrators could agree that the coin was not a proof and made that decision in favor of Garland at a meeting which was in California. This left the decision as to genuineness open. Ryan, the defendant, would not pay the \$3,000 required under the arbitration decision. After an unsuccessful original effort to collect the money judgment for Garland I found it necessary to file suit in the Cook County, Illinois Circuit Court on his behalf to enforce the arbitration decision. A judgment was obtained and finally payment was made.

Some numismatists like you helped and encouraged me during this endeavor but a few others were satisfied or pleased that the genuineness issue had been left open by PNG.

In the following years there was further study and writing on the matter indicating such a piece was genuine. The ANA had established the American Numismatic Association Certification Service which under Kenneth Bressett and later J.P. Martin determined that the Franklin Hoard pieces examined by them were false. When improved photography and digital imaging further developed comparison of dents on each of the Franklin Hoard pieces showed they were identical and this proved that they were struck from a transferred die. Both J. P. Martin and John Dannreuther pointed this out in separate publications. Finally a genuine proof 1853 \$20 USAOG with 164 edge ridges was located and it had the identical dents as the Franklin Hoard pieces. That was therefore the prototype from which the transfer dies were made and used to strike the Franklin Hoard pieces. I do not know how many Franklin Hoard pieces were made or if there was more than one group.

There were several debates, presentations and published items related or partially related to the matter in 1998 and thereafter, using the term "The Great Debate", and first featuring the position of Theodore Buttrey and later that of John Kleeberg. There was litigation against Buttrey which was successfully defended but nothing was decided on the merits of the claims. I am looking forward to reading the detailed conclusions of the just completed Baltimore meeting organized by Don Kagin specifically on the 1853 \$20 USAOG Franklin Hoard pieces.

Sunday, August 03, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

The foregoing text is TENTATIVE and may need correction and clarification. All of the participants in the PNG arbitration I believe have passed away except you and me. Please help me correct and clarify this comment. This matter is BETWEEN US ONLY and do NOT permit this to be DISCLOSED in any manner whatsoever until we both agree on its final content and whether or not to let any others know that content. Both of us must use our MIT training again. My best. Eric

In a message dated 8/2/2008 6:50:51 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, fuld1@comcast.net writes:

Hi Eric:

In case you haven't heard, they found the smoking gun!!

Kagin got an unc(MS-64) USAO \$20 which is the exact prototype for the "proof" 20's. If you want, I can send you 15-20 images of many of the #20's

Best and regards,

George

Looking for a car that's sporty, fun and fits in your budget? [Read reviews on AOL Autos.](#)

Subj: **Re: The USAOG Meeting**
Date: 8/3/2008 5:05:37 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

Wanted to let you know that George Fuld sent me an email today to let me know what the official wording was on the USAOG \$20's. I haven't from him for 5 years (since Baltimore 2003).

He mentioned "transfer die forgeries" was the designation now. I concurred.

He also asked if I ever found out about the "banker". I responded yes, that I knew Franklin's sources, but have only told you.

So, if he contacts you about this, you can do whatever you want in telling him anything. My feeling is the smaller the group, the better at this point.

Hope you are having a good time in absorbing the story. Wait until you see the update pages this coming week. Stack's is in serious trouble.

Best,
Karl

Looking for a car that's sporty, fun and fits in your budget? [Read reviews on AOL Autos.](#)

Subj: **Assay twenties**
Date: 8/5/2008 9:39:25 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: jdr@mindspring.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric,

Well, some progress was made.

They settled on your name suggestion: "Transfer die forgeries" instead of "counterfeits."

The three suggested methods of manufacture were, in no particular order:

1)- mold

2)- EDM

3)- transfer lathe (can't be for several reasons, including the one below, as the coin with the lathe lines is a middle die state....as you can see below, I "die stated" them.)

4)- mold, then a positive in steel made from this mold, then used for an impact die (mine with David McCarthy's theory, as the prototype was not damaged in any way, indicating it was not directly used for an impact die)

5)- JP Martin suggested "transfer die" but to me that is just a general term. He felt they were made like the "Beruit" \$2 1/2 and \$5 Indians and other "Mid East" fakes.

However, the best discovery, as noted above, was the "die stating" the three types seen: 1)-the frosty coins were struck first, 2)-then the PL coins, and 3)-the "Proofs." Of course, this is just the opposite of an ordinary die, which usually go from PL to non PL, although PL coins can come at any stage of a die by simply polishing it. Sometimes, dies were polished to remove clash marks, of course.

After finding the order they were struck, I believe I know why they had to polish the die. They used the "wrong" coin for the prototype. The PCGS MS64 Assay twenty that was used has VERY heavy flow lines. These did not copy well, so the coins had an unusual luster, rather chalky looking. By making them PL and Proof, they did not have to worry that their "original" surfaces would give them away as obvious fakes. Proofs look like Proofs and would be an easier surface to imitate. Also, most of the non PL coins seen have been cleaned to obscure their surfaces, indicating that their makers knew the surfaces were wrong. Also, one of the PL coins was artificially circulated to "create" the image that there were circulated coins with these defects - the dented hub theory. This coin is likely the coin to which Ford referred.

Thought you would appreciate an update.....even without a final conclusion.

Best,

JD

CONTROVERSIAL 1853 UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE \$20 COINS DECLARED TRANSFER DIE FORGERIES

Experts at SPPN meeting settle four decades of uncertainty

A panel of leading numismatists determined the questionable 1853 United States Assay Office of Gold \$20 proof, prooflike, and similar coins to be forgeries produced from transfer dies. The panel's discussion was the main program at the annual meeting of the Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatists (SPPN) held in Baltimore, Maryland Saturday, August 2nd, 2008 as part of the American Numismatic Association's World Fair of Money.

The Transfer Die Forgeries first appeared during the late 1950's, "discovered" by Paul Franklin through a bank teller in Arizona. Franklin and John J. Ford Jr. sold hundreds of these pieces throughout the 1960's as genuine pieces struck in San Francisco by the U.S. Assay Office in 1853. An arbitration hearing of the Professional Numismatists Guild in the late 1960's ruled that the pieces were not proof, but could not come to an agreement on the authenticity or vintage. For the next forty years the authenticity of the Franklin Hoard pieces lay in question.

In 2006 Donald Kagin, Ph.D. and David J. McCarthy of Kagin's, Inc. of Tiburon, Calif. were processing images of one of Kagin's client's collection for the upcoming 2nd edition of *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States*. McCarthy noticed that the client's unquestionably authentic 1853 Assay Office \$20 bore bag marks in the same location as repeating depressions on the questionable Franklin Hoard coins. The marks of the original coin appear on all of the Franklin pieces, despite the best efforts of the forgers to evidently hide them with die polish. The panel agreed that the discovery of this authentic coin and the matching of the marks was the "smoking gun" in the case, condemning all of the Franklin pieces as the products of a one-to-one transfer die made from this authentic host coin.

At the conclusion of the discussion moderator Kagin asked the panel to accurately and succinctly title the coins in question. The experts unanimously agreed these pieces are best described as Transfer Die Forgeries. The panel also agreed efforts need to be taken to educate the numismatic community about these false coins.

The approach and decision of the panel is historic, creating a model for future forums to discuss other numismatic controversies. The SPPN would like to seek answers to other mysteries and controversies in the field of pioneer numismatics and is soliciting future topics for discussion.

The Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatists has been a non-profit organization since 1992. Membership is \$35 per year and includes a subscription to the *Brasher Bulletin*, a thrice annual

publication featuring articles by leading Private & Pioneer coinage experts and historians.
S.P.P.N. is operated from the offices of Kagin's, Inc. in Tiburon, CA. For further information,
please contact Kagin's, Inc. at 888.8KAGINS or 415.435.2601.

8/8/08

from Elliot M. Wehner
Kagin's, Inc
415 435 2601 tel
415 435 1627 fax
elliott@kagins.com

Subj: **Re: Assay twenties**
 Date: 8/6/2008 5:40:01 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: EricNumis
 To: jdro@mindspring.com

Dear JD:

Thank you very much for the report on the Transfer Die Forgeries. I am thinking about it further and have asked Peter Gaspar again to look up the electrotype capabilities in the 1950s and ask the chemical people about it. He will try to do so.

I also want to mention that before striking any planchet could have been machined on a power activated automatic cross cut lathe tool to produce a helix as I indicated before and as I tried to explain at the 1966 arbitration. I still think this might be correct if the helix was put on the planchet and was not on the transfer die.
 My best Eric

In a message dated 8/5/2008 9:39:25 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, jdro@mindspring.com writes:

Hi Eric,

Well, some progress was made.

They settled on your name suggestion: "Transfer die forgeries" instead of "counterfeits."

The three suggested methods of manufacture were, in no particular order:

1)- mold

2)- EDM

3)- transfer lathe (can't be for several reasons, including the one below, as the coin with the lathe lines is a middle die state....as you can see below, I "die stated" them.)

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5)- JP Martin suggested "transfer die" but to me that is just a general term. He felt they were made like the "Beruit" \$2 1/2 and \$5 Indians and other "Mid East" fakes.

However, the best discovery, as noted above, was the "die stating" the three types seen: 1)-the frosty coins were struck first, 2)-then the PL coins, and 3)-the "Proofs." Of course, this is just the opposite of an ordinary die, which usually go from PL to non PL, although PL coins can come at any stage of a die by simply polishing it. Sometimes, dies were polished to remove clash marks, of course.

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Thought you would appreciate an update.....even without a final conclusion.

Subj: **Re: FW: press release**
Date: 8/9/2008 4:47:06 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [Numiscats](#)
To: [EricNumis](#)

Hi Eric,

The email with the press release came through in fine shape. You did good!

I figured that Kagain and JD (PCGS) would be the ones taking all the credit...they are self serving.

My schedule has been filled up with trips since school started this past week, but I'm still trying to place Charles Diehl in Ajo. I'll let you know when that finally happens.

Will also clarify the 1967 and 1968 PNG meetings where you weren't told of them. Hopefully, this will let everyone know the reality of your involvement. As I wrote in the draft you are reviewing, you can send me what you presented in 1966 and I can outline some excerpts.

As for the latest SPPN declaration, I find it rather narrow focused amounting to "horn blowing". The experts aren't even mentioned by name, and they still don't know anything, except what you knew over 40 years ago!

Best,
Karl

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Subj: **Re: dies from electrotypes**
 Date: 8/12/2008 4:26:37 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: ErichNumis
 To: gaspar@wustl.edu

Dear Peter:

Thanks for the greetings . We are having a very eventful time and are momentarily waiting for our 5th great grandchild. We plan to come home promptly after Labor Day.

The recent official report on the \$20 1853 USAOG matter was from Don Kagin. He wants all the credit personally and also for an employee of his firm who located the prototype. There was a further report from Fuld in the last Eylum and I am going to respond to it, CLARIFYING (correcting) a number of matters and adding some facts.(copy will be sent to you on completion). I think several of the attendees want to publish something on their own and some have asked me for data. The control of the dissemination of the discussion at the meeting was arranged by Don Kagin as he wants people to help him rewrite his book. He even asked me but I have not responded because he did not ask me to participate in the Pioneer Society Baltimore meeting until the last minute. The position some of the attendees may be taking is that many important knowledgeable people including professionals believed Ford's stories to a substantial extent because of his great numismatic knowledge.. No one has yet explained how the forged pieces were made but the issue is still being studied. I had a difficult time convincing the group not to use the word "counterfeit" but "Transfer Die Forgeries" was what they finally evolved.

That is it for now.

Eric

In a message dated 8/12/2008 2:49:08 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, gaspar@wustl.edu writes:

Dear Eric,

Carole and I hope that you and Evelyn are continuing to enjoy your summer. We also hope you will be returning to St. Louis in the near future.

I have been looking for a single source reference on electrotyping that would place on a firm basis ideas about electrotyping as the source of dies for the forged 1853 USAOG twenties. The three major issues seem to be:

1. How the original electrotype was made with high fidelity without injuring the original. What kind of coating would allow faithful rendering of the coin surface and allow release of the model from the electrotype.
2. How was a thin electrotype shell given the strength to function as a die?
3. Related to point 2 is the question of how an electrotype could have its lettering altered to account for the differences between the original and the forgeries.

In the last week no single source for the answers to all these questions has appeared, but progress is being made.

1. The interlayer between the model and the electrotype must be thin, conductive and very smooth. There are several candidates, and I hope to suggest one or two soon.

2. I have encountered the case hardening of (relatively) thick electro-deposited iron as a method for repairing steel tools, so I am confident that a steel die could begin as an iron electrotype. The thickness of even a "thick" layer of electroplated iron is still likely to be no more than 0.05 (1/20th) of an inch, so building it up would still be necessary, and I'm not yet confident that I know how that was done - but that should be relatively straightforward to learn.

3. If we can satisfy ourselves regarding the manufacture of a steel-faced iron die from an electrotype, the means employed for altering its surface and re-engraving the lettering should not be different from those used for any other die.

More soon. I read the public parts of the forum on the USAOG pieces to which a link on the Eylum led, but was frustrated to find that

there were documents/reports which required forum membership and a password. Why is such information still being withheld from the greater numismatic public?

All the best!

Peter

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Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
 Date: 8/13/2008 1:43:25 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: kbressett@pcisys.net
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric,

I find nothing to change in your comments on these pieces and the events surrounding them. This is well written and contains information missing in the recollections from Kagin and Fuld. It is a nice addition to what was published in this week's E-sylem report.

Thank you for sharing this with everyone.

---Ken

At 12:58 PM 8/13/2008 -0400, you wrote:

Dear Wayne:

As to conclusions reached on August 2, 2008 in Baltimore on the topic of the 1853 \$20 United States Assay Office of Gold "proof" coinage sponsored by the Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatists at the ANA Convention a summary by Don Kagin (organizer) and comments by George Fuld have been published. I feel I might add some additional information.

Based upon a complaint involving a member of the Professional Numismatic Guild, the PNG in 1966 had arbitration rules under which each party would choose one arbitrator and the two selected arbitrators were to choose the third arbitrator. The three arbitrators were obliged to make a unanimous decision. Paul Garland of Tennessee as a claimant asserted that a "proof" 1853 \$20 USAOG coin sold to him in 1965 for \$3,000 by Tom Ryan of Illinois was a fake and an arbitration was arranged by PNG in 1966. The first hearing was commenced in Chicago with both sides represented. When Paul Franklin was a witness he was asked the details of the source of the "Franklin Hoard" including the coin under review. Franklin refused to answer and his representatives asserted that no dealer should be required to disclose his business sources. The arbitrators (none of whom were attorneys) sustained that position. That hearing was recorded but the recordation was either lost or disappeared.

There were further investigations, filings, correspondence and interviews by and with the arbitrators in which each side was able to present material separately but no further hearings were set in which both sides were notified to be present so as to have cross examination or document examination privileges.

During the arbitration proceedings it was pointed out that the coin under review and all other known pieces from the "Franklin Hoard" had 170 reeds on the edge rather than 164 reeds on previously known 1853 \$20 USAOG pieces; and also that on at least one of the "Franklin Hoard" pieces there appeared on the face a thin weak incused compact helical or spiral line which seemed to be on the planchet prior to striking. The helical line was asserted to be have been applied by an automatic crosscut lathe. There was a difference of opinion in the evidence as to whether such a lathe was available in the 1850s when the planchets were prepared. There was no dispute as to the existence of the helix. It was not asserted that the helix was on the die. The identical dents or bag marks on all of the "Franklin Hoard" coins were not observed during the arbitration although photography was not then as superb as the imaging is now.

Two of the arbitrators informally agreed that the piece under review was a forgery but the third would not agree. All three arbitrators finally agreed in 1967 that the coin was not a "proof" as stated on the invoice and a decision rendered in favor of Garland against Ryan for \$3,000. Ryan refused to pay and in due course suit was filed by Garland in a Cook County, Illinois court to enforce the arbitration decision and judgment obtained. Ryan then paid Garland.

Many years passed before the forgery issue arose again. Some of those asserting forgery included Fuld, Bressett, J. P. Martin, Buttrey, Kleeberg, and Dannreuther. Others continued to urge genuineness. There were several vigorous debates and extensive publications. When the identical

dents were noticed a few years ago on all known "Franklin Hoard" pieces the diagnosis of forgery seemed reconfirmed. Then at the 2008 Baltimore session the prototype piece for the forgeries (containing the same dents and with 164 reeds on the edge) was presented, having been located by a member of Don Kagin's firm. A span of over 40 years was needed to produce general acceptance of forgery of "Franklin Hoard" pieces.

The proper use of the word "forgeries" in the current findings has been chosen in place of "counterfeits" as had been previously urged because numismatic counterfeits are always fraudulently motivated by a producer in an attempt to substitute them for genuine money in actual circulation rather than a desire to make fakes, copies or reproductions after circulation of genuine pieces had ceased, whether or not to cheat or deceive the collector, student, or researcher.

The creation of the "Franklin Hoard" pieces really passed a hot potato to the numismatic fraternity.

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
by Eric P. Newman, pres.

PS.

Wayne, if you wish to use this please let me know of any editorial changes you feel might be helpful and we may make timely changes on our own.

Looking for a car that's sporty, fun and fits in your budget? [Read reviews on AOL Autos.](#)

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
kbressett@pcisys.net

Subj: **Re: "Franklin Hoard"**
Date: 8/13/2008 2:33:53 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: [EricNumis](#)

Hi Eric,

Very nice review and write up. Thanks for sending this.

I've been working on a list of all of the known "Franklin Hoard" items. It is getting pretty long the further I dig. The coverage begins in 1952 and ends in 1962. Materials that surfaced later were either found at the time, or had re-surfaced from having been sold by Ford or Franklin in the 1950s. It's a real messy situation trying to sort it out.

You may want to edit your text to specifically mention the Franklin Hoard USAOG \$20's, rather than implying all of the Franklin Hoard materials. This description of separating the \$20's from the rest of the material will be a key factor in upcoming research.

Best,
Karl

Looking for a car that's sporty, fun and fits in your budget? [Read reviews on AOL Autos.](#)

Dear Wayne:

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Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
by Eric P. Newman, pres.

PS.

Wayne, if you wish to use this please let me know of any editorial changes you feel might be helpful and we may make timely changes on our own.

~~WHOMREN@COMLIBRARY~~
com
ESYLUM@Dinhost.com

Subj: **Dues**
Date: 8/18/2008 2:57:13 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: Esylum@dinhost.com

Dear Wayne:

In reading ESylum's request for dues from new members I wonder if dues are expected from old old members. I have never had a bill or a request for dues and do not expect a freebee unless that is standard practice. Please let me know. Eric

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Subj: **Your message to Esylum awaits moderator approval**
Date: 8/20/2008 12:36:25 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: esylum-bounces@binhost.com
To: ericnumis@aol.com

Your mail to 'Esylum' with the subject

clarification

Is being held until the list moderator can review it for approval.

The reason it is being held:

Post to moderated list

Either the message will get posted to the list, or you will receive notification of the moderator's decision. If you would like to cancel this posting, please visit the following URL:

<https://my.binhost.com/lists/confirm/esylum/598ce6eae74199e4313a4efc1c58a16ac99377bc>

Subj: RE: (no subject)
 Date: 8/21/2008 10:50:18 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: whomren@gmail.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

*See item from
Hoarder's list
and*

Eric:

Karl sent me a copy of your note. Could you clarify for me exactly where you want to insert the word "alleged"? Line numbering can be different on different computers.

Thanks. -Wayne.

From: EricNumis@aol.com [mailto:EricNumis@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 12:59 PM
To: whomren@coinlibrary.com
Subject: (no subject)

Dear Wayne:

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Many years passed before the forgery issue arose again. Some of those asserting forgery included Fuld, Bressett, J. P. Martin, Bultrey, Kleeborg, and Dannreuther. Others continued to urge genuineness. There were several vigorous debates and extensive publications. When the identical dents were noticed a few years ago on all known "Franklin Hoard" pieces the diagnosis of forgery seemed reconfirmed. Then at the 2008 Baltimore session the prototype piece for the forgeries (containing the same dents and with 164 reeds on the edge) was presented, having been located by a member of Don Kagin's firm. A span of over 40 years was needed to produce general acceptance of forgery of "Franklin Hoard" pieces.

The proper use of the word "forgeries" in the current findings has been chosen in place of "counterfeits" as had been previously

Subj: **E-Sylum email address**
 Date: 8/21/2008 10:33:34 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: whomren@gmail.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric:

Sorry I missed your submission last week. I've been having trouble with that email address. You can use whomren@gmail.com. I don't think I got the entire message, but I saw that you copied Ken and Karl, so I asked them if they could forward it to me. I'll include your clarification, too.

Enjoy your vacation!

-Wayne.

Looking for a car that's sporty, fun and fits in your budget? [Read reviews on AOL Autos.](#)

PS: Wayne, if you wish to use this please let me know of any editorial changes you feel might be helpful and we may make timely changes on our own.

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
by Eric P. Newman, pres.

The creation of the "Franklin Hoard" pieces really passed a hot potato to the numismatic fraternity. student, or researcher. reproductions after circulation of genuine pieces had ceased, whether or not to cheat or deceive the collector, to substitute them for genuine money in actual circulation rather than a desire to make fakes, copies or urged because numismatic counterfeiters are always fraudulently motivated by a producer in an attempt

Subj: **Re: Eric Newman's note on the USAOG pieces**
Date: 8/22/2008 12:37:39 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

Sure. Here 'tis: [REDACTED]


At 10:32 PM 8/21/2008 -0400, you wrote:

Ken:

I've been having trouble with an email address Eric Newman used to send me his comments on the USAOG pieces. He copied you on his note to me. Could you forward it to me at this address? [REDACTED]

Thanks. Wayne.

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
[REDACTED]

Subj: **USAOG comments sent to you are further clarified**
Date: 8/22/2008 12:42:35 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: 
To:

Dear Wayne:

I am sorry that most of the prior Email items sent to you were not received in a timely manner due to Email problems apparently at your end. We are trying now to clarify things. Please let me know if this Email is received and if you have any further suggestions if you determine to use our comments.

You already have the text which was submitted to Bressett, etc. for their suggestions.

These are the changes we wish to be made:

In each situation where we use the words "Franklin Hoard" follow it with (\$20 USAOG pieces) for the reason that other pieces may have been in the hoard.

Place the word alleged in front of the words planchets were prepared

Substitute the words about 1994 in place of a few years ago

If you have any further suggestions or questions please feel free to make or ask them. We have deliberately left out the name "Ford" because if we put it in the comments might be too long. We have deliberately left out the resultant law suits against Buttrey because they were won by him on technical grounds and no forgery matters were decided. We have avoided trying to describe The Great Debate because a conference in Colorado in one year followed by the open ANA hearing in Chicago the next year would have been too complicated and lengthy for us to outline. Please do not use or disclose any part of this paragraph as it is an explanation for you only.

If anyone raises these issues later then the matter can be considered further.

As indicated previously these comments have not been submitted to anyone for publication and if a request comes in before you publish you will be informed.

Eric for EPNNES

You may telephone us at 314 727 0850 or Email me as above.

It's only a deal if it's where you want to go. Find your travel deal [here](#).

Subj: RE: USAOG comments sent to you are further clarified
Date: 8/22/2008 10:22:04 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Eric:

Thanks for the clarifications. I've made the edits per your request, and will not publish your other comments. I'm sorry for the delay.
Congratulations on the long-overdue recognition.

-Wayne.

ERIC NEWMAN: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FRANKLIN HOARD \$20 USAOG COINS

My apologies to Eric Newman for the late publication of this submission regarding the Pioneer Gold Forum and the suspect U.S. Assay Office of Gold pieces. As noted in this week's Wayne's Words, a number of people are having trouble with the whomren@piblibrary.com address. Eric's note bounced and I didn't get it in time for last week's issue. -Editor

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The proper use of the word "forgeries" in the current findings has been chosen in place of "counterfeits" as had been previously urged because numismatic counterfeits are always fraudulently motivated by a producer in an attempt to substitute them for genuine money in actual circulation rather than a desire to make fakes, copies or reproductions after circulation of genuine pieces had ceased, whether or not to cheat or deceive the collector, student, or researcher.

The creation of the "Franklin Hoard" \$20 USAOG pieces really passed a hot potato to the numismatic fraternity.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2008 12:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: USAOG comments sent to you are further clarified

Dear Wayne:

I am sorry that most of the prior Email items sent to you were not received in a timely manner due to Email problems apparently at your end. We are trying now to clarify things. Please let me know if this Email is received and if you have any further suggestions if you determine to use our comments.

You already have the text which was submitted to Bressett, etc. for their suggestions.

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resultant law suits against Buttrey because they were won by him on technical grounds and no forgery matters were decided. We have avoided trying to describe The Great Debate because a conference in Colorado in one year followed by the open ANA hearing in Chicago the next year would have been too complicated and lengthy for us to outline. Please do not use or disclose any part of this paragraph as it is an explanation for you only.

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Eric for EPNNES

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EPNNES as author is omitted,

No one has claimed helix is on die.

Subj: **Re: SPPN Pioneer Gold Forum Findings on the USAOG "Franklin Hoard" \$20s**
Date: 8/23/2008 4:36:14 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Don:

We thank you for your 8/22/08 Email about the findings at the 1853 \$20 USAOG meeting on 8/3/08 in Baltimore. Although you are aware that I personally did not attend we tried to be helpful to those who contacted us about the matter.

We have read all the statements and summaries you and others have recently made and sent to us and it may be helpful for us to make some further simple comments which we are told will be included in the 8/24/08 E Sylum issue. Hopefully you will find them satisfactory. We will see what further reaction will result from those comments.

You have demonstrated your desire to clarify thinking on the subject and we feel that your continuation of the study of related matters is appropriate.

Thank you for offering to send us by mail copies of the previous news releases in various media. Please send us all of them as we may have missed some.

Keep numismatics rolling. Eric for Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society

In a message dated 8/22/2008 4:47:55 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Hi Eric,

I regret you were unable to attend the above. By now I'm sure you have received some independent (and hopefully, positive) reviews.

We put a lot of effort into presenting this and in making it as impartial as possible. I think you would have been gratified if not impressed by the thoughtful and scientific approach taken by the panelists. In addition George Fuld and John Kleeberg contributed a number of helpful comments and materials.

I am personally gratified that this particular issued has been (unanimously) dealt with although we were not able to conclude exactly how the forgeries were produced. It is unfortunate that the PNG never made a definitive finding 40 years ago, confirming your conclusion that these pieces were transfer copy forgeries. It was especially prescient of you to have then suggested that, "somewhere there is a beautiful genuine \$20 U.S. Assay piece .900 fine which has the obverse dents and the reverse dents identical to those found on the coins from the Humbert Associate Source...It is the piece from which the molds and dies wee made to strike the Humbert Associate Source coins." Indeed the coin resides with a client of ours which was "discovered" by my associate David McCarthy when reviewing images we are gathering for the second edition of my book.

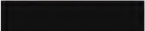
Although the SPPN is not the PNG, I think our conclusions should have at least as much credibility on this issue. We hope to tackle other controversial issues in the future.

Thank you for all your support and mentoring over the years.

Don

Let me know if you do not have any of the news releases generated by the above (The Asylum, Coin World, SPPN news release) and I'll send you a couple

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Date: 8/22/2008 4:47:55 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: 
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Subj: **Method of making 1853 \$20 USAOG forgeries**
Date: 8/25/2008 12:57:28 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
BCC: [REDACTED]

Dear JD:

Now that Wayne Homren has published clarification concerning the arbitration matter on the above it is time to share with you new findings as to the method of producing the forgeries because you were so concerned about it.

When the Baltimore meeting for the 1853 \$20 USAOG discussion was scheduled I was not included on the original Kagin list, apparently because I was assumed to be biased on the matter. Much later I was invited. In the meantime several people talked to me about the subject but I did not check into our archives to locate the many storage boxes containing the relevant files because that would have required an enormous amount of time. I relied on my memory for many of the 40 year old events.

I tried to help you in determining the method of production of the forgeries but did not recall all of details which I now know, having had my memory refreshed by others calling my attention to what I had previously written. In the paper I wrote and presented to the arbitrators I called attention to dental techniques to produce steel (or other hard metal) dies by using ceramic molds and centrifugal casting for the two faces. This is how I then believed and now believe the forgeries were made. I am told that I also then wrote and presented to the arbitrators "Somewhere there is a beautiful genuine \$20 U.S. Assay piece .900 fine which has the obverse dents and reverse dents identical to those found on the coins from the Humbert Associate Source".

Whether I realized then that identical dents on the "Franklin Hoard" pieces also proved forgery I am not certain until I find my additional notations if any. At least I anticipated 40 years ago the finding of the prototype.

You worked so hard on the matter I wanted you to be informed immediately on what I know now. Thank you for sharing your expertise with me.

Eric

It's only a deal if it's where *you* want to go. Find your travel deal [here](#).

Subj: **Re: Method of making 1853 \$20 USAOG forgeries**
Date: 8/25/2008 1:06:15 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Hi Eric,

I am in NYC at John Kraljevich's apartment this week. JK says hi.

You figured it out back then with your wits. We had much more info and newer technology, but came to the same conclusion that you did at the time.

The dentil mold theory is as good as any. Certainly, I agree that some type of mold was used (dentil, impact, or whatever). The dentil mold theory accounts for the slight enlargement of lettering, etc. It would also copy the flow lines, although not perfectly, as I don't think any method, then or now, can accurately copy flow lines.

I hope to get some more closeup pictures of the flow lines on the prototype coin and the "chalky" non-PL forgeries, as well as what they look like after polishing on the later states of the forgeries.

Best,

JD

polished?

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Aug 25, 2008 11:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Method of making 1853 \$20 USAOG forgeries

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ERIC NEWMAN: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FRANKLIN HOARD \$20 USAOG COINS

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QUERY: HOW TO COUNT REEDS ON A COIN'S EDGE?

Subj: **1853 \$20 Franklin Hoard USAOG**
Date: 11/14/2008 12:44:40 PM Central Standard Time
From: 
To: 

Dear JD:

In the Fall 2008 Brasher Bulletin there is an article on the forgeries of the Franklin Hoard coins summarizing some activities at the August 2008 Baltimore conference.

In the article it is stated that "Hundreds (if not thousands) of these fake coins were sold".

I was informed that such a quantity comment was also made at the Baltimore meeting.

In the Garland vs. Ryan matter over 40 years ago I was shown only images of six examples and was not aware of any more at that time when I represented Garland in the PNG Arbitration Hearing.

I believe that you are the knowledgeable person to ask as to what you know about the large quantity of forgeries and other facts you may know as to their distribution to collectors, etc. How many did you see at the Baltimore meeting? Have their been and are they still a commercial item in the numismatic trade?

I would be grateful for your comments.

My best to you as always. Eric

Get the [Moviefone Toolbar](#). Showtimes, theaters, movie news & more!

Subj: **Re: 1853 \$20 Franklin Hoard USAOG**
Date: 11/14/2008 1:27:04 PM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Hi Eric,

Think that is a very high number. I would say no more than a few hundred. That might even be high. It might be only a few dozen.

I think I told you that the Smithsonian "weird ones" were the last state of the dies. They polished them on several occasions to remove the "flow lines" that copied from the original coin. There are at least four distinct states of the dies. Frosty (or chalky looking), PL, deep PL, and "Proof."

As always, best to you and your lovely wife,

JD

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Nov 14, 2008 12:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 1853 \$20 Franklin Hoard USAOG

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I would be grateful for your comments.
My best to you as always. Eric

1853 \$20 USAOC Forgeries

11/14/08

After reading the number ^{to above} of forgeries stated in the Don Kagan article in the Brasher Bulletin for Fall 2008 I mentioned this to Ken Bressett. He telephoned David McCarthy of Don Kagan's firm who discovered the prototype of the forgeries. McCarthy told Ken (Ken called me to so relate) that several hundred forgeries were made, that McCarthy had seen 15, that McCarthy felt that 30 still existed and that the rest were melted when the price of gold trended up in later years. Ken feels that McCarthy is reliable as a researcher. *Ken*

11/15/08

Telephoned Karl Moulton to report Brasher Bulletin content. Then sent him a copy by email. Moulton said that the melting idea came from ^{base and high gold prices} the sale of stocks in 19 ^{the price at which} the forgeries were selling and had said "privately" would not encourage melting. But was a different situation

1853 \$20 US AOG forgery

During the Calif Gold Rush the United States Assay Office of Gold was created in 1853 by Federal legislation to mint gold coinage in order to assist the overburdened US Branch Mint in San Fran with a separate type of gold coinage. A substantial quantity of \$20 gold coinage beautifully designed by Adolph Kummer was produced by Henry Shick with 900 fineness and dated

In 1953 forgeries of the \$20 1853 coinage were made to sell to collectors by dentat ceramic casting methods using steel dies. The faces of a genuine coin were used to make the dies by transfer ~~the~~ from the negative to the positive ceramic mold. A new steel collar was cut to form the edges but by error the number of reeds was ~~16~~ 170 reeds instead of the correct 164 reeds. Tiny surface ^{bad} dents were also transferred to the new dies along with the design detail.

Subj: **1853 \$20 USAOG forgeries**
Date: 11/16/2008 1:37:45 PM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Dear JD:

Thanks for your reply on the above.

Bases on your findings I must ask a further question. I was told that some of the actual coin forgeries were polished after striking to make them more proof-like and to obliterate the bag marks. From the four condition states you indicated you found in your studies of the flow lines and bag dents do you think that the dies themselves were "improved" at intervals by polishing or do you think the polishing work was done by coin doctors on the coins after striking or perhaps both.

I will appreciate your thoughts as I am naturally quite fascinated by this matter.

My wife returns your greetings. I do too. Eric

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Subj: Re: 1853 \$20 USAOG forgeries
Date: 11/16/2008 4:31:46 PM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Hi Eric,

I have heard of a couple that have been "worked on" to try and hide their fakeness. Think I have seen one. Sure there are others.....I think there is one that is whizzed.

however,

the four distinct die states (could be more, but am sure of these four) are:

- 1)- chalky looking, slightly prooflike (what is generally called satin or semi-prooflike), and noticeable flow lines; also the ribbon (lowest left) is complete
- 2)- prooflike, still with some flow lines, but now some are mere "dots," while others still are somewhat connected; ribbon has slight prooflike area and edge is partially missing
- 3)- prooflike, with almost no flow lines (so-called Proofs), just a few dots here and there; more of the ribbon is missing, more of it is prooflike
- 4)- the concoction state (my name for it) with all "dots" polished away and really "Proof" surfaces; the ones in the Smithsonian are mostly from this state; ribbon has several parts missing, as well as prooflike areas behind several of the letters

The odd stuff in the Smithsonian and elsewhere have the last state (at least all the ones I have seen). The one that is a "50" really looks like a Proof.

Someone was having fun making all kind of things!

As you can see, the progression of the dies (lightly polished at the beginning, then at least three more polishings to remove "things") indicates that the makers realized the various stages of the flow lines were a problem. Thus, the last state has them totally gone.

Fascinatn' stuff.....

Best,

JD

-----Original Message-----

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Sent: Nov 16, 2008 1:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 1853 \$20 USAOG forgeries

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Subj: **USAOG GOLD**
Date: 11/25/2008 9:49:10 AM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Eric: I spoke with Doug Mudd about the USAOG GOLD \$20 fakes. He said that he did not believe that the Smithsonian ever had more than two or three of them at the most. And, he was not even sure that they ever had any.

If you have any additions or changes for the piece that I wrote about the 1804 dollars you should send it to Dennis as soon as you can. He seems determined to publish the book quickly because of pressures from his boss.

Happy Turkey Day.
---Ken

This message was sent using Endymion MailMan.
<http://www.endymion.com/products/mailman/>

Office
Telephone conversation 215 735 5517

11/28/08 AM from Kathy Bullara Moore. She called because Margo Russell had asked her to call me because I found an ^{old} ^{of mine} specimen in a box (USACG arbitration ¹⁹⁶⁶ opinion). I asked Margo to have Kathy call me if possible.

I explained to Kathy the details of the hearing in Baltimore in August 2008 on the \$20 1853 USACG matter and that forgery was ^{unanimously} determined from newly found prototype dies, that I was not asked to be present until ~~now~~ just before hearing & did not attend.

I asked her if she knew Tom Ryan, Paul Starkard, Jim Sloss and she said of course. We discussed the PNG administration because she was familiar with the matter somewhat. She said she knew Paul Starkard from the NY Club area meetings and thought he was a reliable person but was guided by Ford. I asked her about Steve K Nagy who was Earl Moore's uncle. She named Moore in 1959 and Nagy died in 1958. Named Bullara in 1953.

She didn't think Nagy rec'd any dies from the Mint. She had all of the Nagy material to dispose of for ~~her~~ estate but let ~~her~~ look over the material as ~~she~~ Stacks ~~and~~ suggested giving it to Smithsonian (the Stoffanelli's). She thinks Macken was paid something to go along with giving something to Smithsonian and didn't trust Macken after that. She didn't know if Nagy had sold things before he died.

She mentioned Woodin as to patterns but I said Woodin got coin patterns and no dies that I am aware of.

She seemed very good at remembering things, I thanked her for calling and talked about Ann Hirsch etc.

I did not comment on the fact that 1958 was the date of appearance of the semi proof \$20 185305ACG pieces.

Thanked Margo later for setting up this call. Margo pointed out that Stoffanelli has worked for Stacks before Smithsonian and probably knew about Stacks secret sales of coins to Kelly. Margo said Kathy was a trained death worker and only learned about coins ^{as a coin bargainer} ^{Nagy} Bullara mostly during months when he was dying. Also indicated Bullara was still held by her - also Kathy is not well and sees lots of doctors. Kathy is about 89.

John Kleberg:
430 E 52nd St #8F
New York City NY 10022

11/30/08

Dear John:

You asked for a copy of my position paper
about the 1966-67 PNG Arbitration hearing
on the 1853 \$20 USAGG matters. I
had not touched my files in 40 years so I
just dug into my basement boxes and
retrieved the item. I was surprised at
how much I then knew about the
matter. It is only 15 pages long and
produced a 115 page response from
USF. A copy of it is enclosed for
you.

If you have any idea as to the
person who actually produced the
fishes I would be most interested.

I have photographs of a few of
the forgeries. Sam Reuther thinks there are four
different die states with more polishing
having occurred in ~~between~~

My best

Eric

FROM THE DESK OF ERIC P. NEWMAN

PIONEER GOLD FORUM TO DISCUSS CONTROVERSIAL U.S. ASSAY OFFICE 1853 \$20s AT ANA'S WORLD FAIR OF MONEY

This year's annual meeting at the ANA will consist of a special gathering of the Pioneer Gold Forum, to discuss the controversial proof and prooflike 1853 \$20 U.S. Assay Office of Gold Pieces. These pieces were the subject of an inconclusive 1968 PNG arbitration.

The Pioneer Gold Forum is an elite group of numismatic experts in the field of pioneer gold and have been carefully chosen for their abilities, willingness and impartiality towards analyzing controversial pioneer numismatic issues. Earlier this year, the Forum analyzed and concluded that the "Prooflike" 1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$20s were 20th century fantasies, leading to PCGS' subsequent repurchase -- and relabeling as fantasies -- of erroneously certified overstruck specimens. This year's meeting takes place Saturday August 2, 2008 in Room #320 at the Baltimore Convention Center.



Business Strike Prototype



"Proof" Specimen

The Brasher Bulletin

Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatists

Summer 2008



Editor's Observations

Dear S.P.P.N. Member:

The long awaited summer edition of *The Brasher Bulletin* is finally here. You will notice that this edition is much sleeker than usual; we were short on article submissions over the last season, but we'll try to make up for it in the next issue. Now could not be a better time for you to make a contribution of an article, story, letter, photo, or other interesting piece to share with your fellow SPPNites!

However, what we lack in quantity is certainly made up for in quality. This issue starts off with a new column called "Pioneer Spotlight." This will be a regular feature in the *Bulletin* and will consist of a biography, or other true story about the life of a pioneer. The first installment tells the story of little known Charles Thompson Blake, a miner and assayer with Wells Fargo.

Next we take a peek into the contents of Victorian Shell Boxes, thanks to continuing contributor Dr. Robert Chandler. While Chandler compares the boxes to Beanie Babies, what they contain is much more interesting.

Another regular contributor, Fred Holabird, makes an appearance with the first of a two part series on the insights of the rarely acknowledged African American pioneer numismatists, in his story of the Treasure Hill ingot.

A step back into the daily life of a miner is experienced by reading the letters Charlie Black painstakingly transcribed. In these letters, we see the hard work, heartache and hope that prevailed in the Gold Rush community.

Our final article comes from Michael Wehner, who will become another regular contributor to the *Brasher*. This first installment tells the story of *The King of Western Exonumia*.

Last but not least is the announcement of our annual meeting on Saturday August 2, 2008 in Room #320 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

This may be one of the most important for us since we will be hosting the Pioneer Gold Forum. This group of elite numismatic experts have been selected to be part of a fact-finding and authentication effort to analyze controversial pioneer gold pieces. The Forum debuted at January 2008 FUN show in Orlando where they discussed the Prooflike 1861 \$20 Clark Gruber & Co. gold pieces. Many of these pieces had been sold in previous auctions over the last 50 years and some, including overstruck specimens, had been independently certified. The Forum determined that these pieces were 20th Century Fantasies! (See *Brasher Bulletin* Winter 2008 Issue).

This year the Forum will tackle the Prooflike and Proof 1853 U. S. ASSAY OFFICE \$20 GOLD PIECES. These pieces were the subject of a 1968 P.N.G. arbitration that decided to sidestep the issue of when and why the coins were made, i.e. were they contemporary, restrikes from original dies, or fantasies. The Forum plans to thoroughly discuss these issues. You should reserve your seats now. For more information or to answer any questions contact your editor at Don@Kagins.com

Enjoy!



CALL FOR ASSISTANCE FOR 2ND EDITION OF PRIVATE GOLD COINS AND PATTERNS OF THE UNITED STATES

Donald Kagin is asking for any assistance in updating his reference work, *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States*. "It has been 30 years since I assembled my work on the first edition. Since then there have been new revelations and information about some of the various pioneer coins. In addition a number of new specimens have been discovered. It's time for a new edition," explained Kagin.

Besides new information, over the years pioneer enthusiasts have made suggestions for changes that will enhance the work. Some include a modified numbering system differentiating regular gold issues from patterns and other issues, inclusion of sub numbers for varieties, pedigrees for plate coins, etc. Anyone wishing to give input will be appreciated and credited.

The new edition will feature color plate coins as much as possible, updated population figures, an additional chapter on the S.S. Central America pioneer treasure, and new discoveries.



Please email or send your suggestions to:

*Donald Kagin
98 Main St. #201
Tiburon CA 94920
don@kagins.com*

BRASHER BULLETIN

INFORMATION FOR ADVERTISERS

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1/4 pg.	\$100	\$188
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